

Testwood School Drugs Policy



Key Responsibility area:	TW/SWC/NS/2
Last Review:	May 2024
Next Review:	May 2026
Article 33	(drug abuse) Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.

Revision History

Version	Date	Amendments	Initials
V2.0	29/04/20	Governors changed to Trustees Appendix 1 added to policy	JB
V3.0	06.05.22	Revised dates	JB
V3.1	01.05.24	Key responsibility changed from JP to TW and Revised dates	JB

*Appendices follow on from policy

A) Introduction

This school acknowledges that a positive ethos helps students to feel valued and part of the school community and in so doing helps to foster positive self-images which may help students cope better in situations involving drug use.

This school will provide a comprehensive and planned drug education curriculum. Drug Education is part of the Citizenship/ Personal Social Education programme, and aims to provide all students with knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs.

This school maintains strong links with the local community police through their involvement in the drug education curriculum currently with the 'Get Real' programme which helps students to have a greater understanding of the role of the police and about drugs and the Law. The school also seeks to maintain strong links with the county's PSHE advisory service. The school is also part of the 'Hampshire Safe' project which aims to support children at risk of becoming involved with County Lines drug and crime activities.

B) Purpose

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquillisers and pain killers and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroin, and any other drugs young people may use.

In all situations involving drugs the following principles apply:

- 1) All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- 2) The needs of the child will always come first
- 3) The pastoral system will be the first response if at all possible
- 4) Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- 5) Support agencies including the police will be involved if appropriate
- 6) Support for students will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate
- 7) Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling approach
- 8) In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. However, the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which controls heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA (ecstasy), amphetamines and cannabis and other drugs as well. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply these drugs and it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately.
- 9) It is the policy of this school to contact the local community police where an incident has involved illegal substances, and to hand it to the police.
- 10) The reporting procedure ensures that only a limited number of people will be involved in any incident. All incidents are reported to the Headteacher, appropriate Year Leader and Assistant Headteacher. If an exclusion is considered, then the procedure for this is put into action by the Headteacher involving the Trustees
- 11) All incidents are written down and kept in the student file and CPOMS as confidential items

C) Outcomes

Students at this school need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without fear of being judged or 'told off'. The welfare of young people will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers and support staff will not be able to promise complete confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. Students will always be given this information if at all possible. Teachers and support staff should follow the same guidelines as explained in the school's Child Protection Policy. Information about a student in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The Year Leader and Headteacher will be informed and help sought if appropriate, in discussion with the student involved. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people, including the Year Leader, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers.

Situations which include the breaking of school rules on drugs will result in punishment. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be used, brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or during the school day. In most cases the breaking of the school rules on drugs may lead to permanent exclusion. Parents/carers and students will be informed throughout any investigations.

A copy of the Drugs Education policy will be made available to parents/carers on request. Parents/carers will be contacted if their child is caught breaking the rules on drugs. Opportunities will be made available for parents/carers to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health related issues as appropriate.

This policy was approved by the Trustees and will be reviewed bi-annually.

A) Statement of the use of drugs in school

This school accepts that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the School day (other than those prescribed for medical purposes) is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or during the school day. Any breaking of these rules may result in punishment including permanent exclusion. These rules apply to school staff and other adults working in and for the school.

B) The need for a policy

This school believes that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and that experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people's lives. It is the responsibility of schools to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug prevention and help those who misuse drugs. Schools need a policy which gives a clear view on the use of drugs in school and the importance of drug education. This policy emphasises the school's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and a clear view on handling the problem of drug use in school. In developing this policy, the school has considered its legal responsibility, the needs of students, teachers, Trustees, parents/carers and the local community.

C) Managing drug-related incidents

Incidents involving drugs may take the form of emergencies, intoxication, discovery/observation, disclosure, suspicion/rumour (or discovery of drugs related materials). This policy considers responses to these situations.

D) Emergency situations

Where a person is unconscious, which may be as a result of drug use, staff with first aid qualifications should be called and the person not left alone. The person will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called. The parents/carers will be informed immediately. An assessment of the incident started including finding out whether a substance has been taken and evidence gathered. A report of the incident will be written down and given to the Headteacher, Year Leader or Assistant Heateacher. These key staff involved will decide whether disciplinary and/or counselling action will be taken.

E) Intoxication from drug use.

The person will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and senior member of staff called. The person will be helped to calm down and medical assistance

sought if necessary. The parents/carers will be informed and called to the school. A report of the incident will be written down and key staff involved will decide if disciplinary and/or counselling action should be taken.

F) Discovery/observation

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy, the person should be approached and the substance confiscated, if possible. A senior member of staff will be called and the person(s) involved questioned. If the substance is illegal or there is doubt about its identity drug services or local community police will be contacted. All illegal substances will be handed to the police. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school. A report of the incident will be written down and key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling approach will be taken.

G) Disclosure

When a student discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use, teachers and support staff will be non-judgmental and caring and show concern for the student's welfare. Students will know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality if further support is to be considered such as referral to a drug service or counselling service. Information about the student will only be given to key people and no one else unless the student gives their consent. Total confidentiality is maintained at all times in drug and counselling services. The school has strong links with local drug services and a system of referral to these agencies.

H) Suspicion/rumour (or discovery of drug related materials).

Staff must act quickly on the basis of rumours of drugs or, a belief that a student is using drugs, to ascertain the likelihood of the rumours being accurate. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected in a timely manner before a decision is made to question the student(s) involved.

I) Administering medicines

In most cases parents and carers, not teachers, will administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours, but where this is not possible, parents/carers of children in need of medication must ensure that the school is accurately advised about the medication, its usage and administration. The decision for staff to administer medicines will be made by the Headteacher. All medicines are stored securely in the medical office with access only by matron, senior staff and the first aider. In the case of asthma reliever inhalers, these are kept by students for easy and immediate access (refer to the school Medical policy)

J) Training and support for staff

The school will ensure that staff receive appropriate, accurate and up-to-date training to help them provide effective drug education and support for their teaching and understanding of the issues. The SLT link for PSHE has responsibility for ensuring there accurate and up-to-date training in drug education within the PSHE curriculum and receives support from the relevant agencies.

The school takes advantage of the support, advice, information and training provided by the Local Education Authority and other local organisations.

K) Engagement with preventative initiatives involving Hampshire Safe and the services of a drug detection dog.

Testwood is one of the New Forest linked schools engaged with the 'Hampshire Safe' initiative since 2018. The drugs education assemblies and follow-up visits by the Drug detection officer and dog form part of the regular scrutiny of Testwood's premises to keep students, staff and Testwood safe.

Appendix 1

Drugs Education Policy

Our intention is to provide for all students an education programme that encourages them to develop a healthy lifestyle, informs them of the risks associated with the use and misuse of substances, and enables them to work out a personal code and set of attitudes that will help them resist pressures. Testwood School is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being in accordance with current legislation. The school responds in an appropriate and unambiguous manner to incidents connected with alcohol or other substance abuse. We acknowledge the importance of the school's pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the ethos of the school, the sensitive handling of students' anxieties, concerns and behavioural problems, and the skills training which is part of the tutorial programme, we aim to help all students cope positively with the challenges and conflicts which face them.

Aim: To enable all students to make healthy, informed choices.

Objectives:

- To clarify the range of substances to be covered, i.e. tobacco, alcohol, legal prescribed and over the counter drugs as well as illegal substances and new psychoactive substances;
- To identify students' existing knowledge or misconceptions to determine a suitable starting point;
- To understand the valuable role of legal drugs;
- To explore the issues relating to use and misuse;
- To clarify the law on drug misuse.
- To clarify the school's policy for managing drug related incidents.

Content: We will follow the recommendations in the National Curriculum for Science, PSHE and Ethics with regard to suitable content for KS3 and KS4. The programme at both stages will seek to teach:

- Conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease
- Human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors, by the use and misuse of drugs and by medical treatments.
- The facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse.
- The personal and social consequences of misuse for themselves
- Ways of recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations.
- Teaching about HIV/AIDS and Sexual Transmitted Diseases will be included at a level appropriate for the students' age, knowledge, experience and understanding. This element will be handled sensitively with due regard for moral considerations as well as the need to give clear, unbiased information.

Implementation: The Personal Development Lead from SLT will liaise with the PSHE staff team to develop modules that will address the prescribed content to be delivered by the tutors. Input will also be made by outside agencies and the police. The methods of delivery will be PSHE Days, Assemblies and delivery in Thoughtful Thursday sessions. The Curriculum Leader for Science will ensure appropriate coverage of drugs related education in accordance with the National Curriculum requirements.

Staffing: The PSHE team will continue to receive INSET on this topic so that regular updating of their knowledge and teaching methods take place. If appropriate, visits from DART (Drug and Alcohol Reference Team) CATCH22 and Youth Crime Prevention will advise on problems of substance misuse, and other relevant agencies will be part of the programme.

In addition, in conjunction with other local schools and with Hampshire Safe, the school may arrange for trained dogs with handlers to visit the school as a proactive step to prevent drugs being brought onto the school site.

All relevant staff will have access to updated information and appropriate training to help develop their tutorial skills and understanding.

Parents/Carers: There will be opportunities for parents/carers to discuss any drug related issues with the relevant member of the safeguarding team and Personal Development Lead from SLT.

Managing Drug Related Incidents: The following items will not be accepted on the school premises: e-cigarettes, vapes, pipes, cigarettes, alcohol, drug related paraphernalia and any other illegal or dangerous substances (including new psychoactive substances). Students will be informed that these items are banned on a regular basis through assemblies and tutor information.

If the school has concerns about student involvement, parents/carers will be informed and if appropriate the Police contacted. If incidents arise which involve illegal substances they will be dealt with according to the school's Behaviour for Learning policy and as outlined below: - Any student suspected of being in possession of drugs, under the influence of drugs or suspected of supplying drugs will be searched; this will be done with the student's consent and in the presence of another adult witness. If the student does not co-operate then the police will be called.

All incidents related to drugs will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action and sanctions will be taken in accordance with Testwood Behaviour for Learning policy including the possibility of Permanent Exclusion (in line with DFE guidance). - Where possible, due respect will be given to the confidentiality of those involved. However, this cannot be guaranteed and Police and Children Services involvement may be necessary. - In all cases, parents/carers will be informed. - Any student involved in a drugs incident will be directed to the Police and to local agencies who can offer support regarding a drugs habit, the welfare of the student being of prime consideration. - All drugs related incidents will be recorded in writing on the student's file and on CPOMS. In all cases the school will follow DFE Guidance.