



ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

DRUGS POLICY

Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	EH
Last Review Date:	January 2024
Next Review Date:	September 2024

This policy contains information on drugs education particularly in the context of PSHE and the management of drugs related incidents.

The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in safeguarding students and the welfare of young people and the importance of substance abuse education. As part of this, Drug education is provided within science classes, and as appropriate within other subject areas, and as part of the broader health education programme in PSE lessons. Tutorial time may also be devoted to this subject on occasions.

1. Drug Education in the Curriculum

The National Curriculum Science Order requires that the following is taught:

“At Key Stage 3 the School teaches (11-14 year olds) how the abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health, how a student’s natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange. At Key Stage 4 (14-16 year olds), the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on the body’s functions”.

Pupils need to be taught about the physiological and psychological effects of drugs and the implications for individuals, the family and society of drug abuse. They should be encouraged to reject drugs because of their own belief rather than because they have been taught to say ‘no’. They need positive attitudes towards living a drug-free life, be able to make informed decisions about drugs, and have sufficient self-confidence to reject their use.

In this School, drug education is part of our health education programme taught within PSHE lessons. On occasions outside speakers e.g. the Community Police Officer, and Theatre Education groups may be invited into School. Their contribution complements the other teaching, and teachers will be present so that they are able to pursue any follow-up work.

2. Drug Misuse – Definition (cf. Appendix 1)

In writing this Policy, the Governors have been mindful of two key acts:

(a) Drug misuse is the non-medical use of drugs that are intended for use in medical treatment and the use of drugs that have no accepted medical purpose. Such drugs are controlled under the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**. The main drugs misused include:

- opiates eg. heroin
- stimulants eg. cocaine, amphetamines, Ecstasy
- tranquillisers eg. temazepam
- hallucinogens eg. LSD
- cannabinoids eg. cannabis

Solvent misuse, tobacco, nitrous oxide, alcohol and other non-controlled drugs are not covered by the Act but are part of this policy.

(b) **The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016**: defines 'psychoactive substance' and makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply such substances.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) mimic the effects of traditional drugs that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These substances, together with other substances used as intoxicants

(for example, nitrous oxide), are often referred to as 'legal highs'. The chemicals in the substances are often neither legal nor safe for human consumption. These substances also fall within this Policy.

3. Management of Drug related incidents

See Appendix 3 for a quick checklist of priorities

Any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises or being under the influence of drugs are regarded with the utmost seriousness and are strictly forbidden in all the following circumstances: -

- a) on the journey to or from school
- b) on any school visit, including residential visits
- c) at any time while in school uniform
- d) during the School day
- e) on the School premises

The School reserves the right to take action in respect of any pupil who is cautioned or convicted of an offence relating to the possession etc of illegal drugs, even where this has not occurred in the circumstances described above.

Defining a drug-related incident:

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the School vicinity.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- (i) Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- (ii) The Head Master or the Deputy Headmaster will be informed of the situation immediately.
- (iii) Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Deputy Headmaster as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- (iv) The Deputy Headmaster (or Head Master) will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- (v) Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to the Deputy Headmaster, or a senior member of staff, who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where the individual refuses, the Deputy Headmaster, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory

- power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93)). All searches should be conducted in the presence of a second member of staff. Note, intimate searches of a student should never be made.
- (vi) Staff will search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the School may wish to proceed with a search.
 - (vii) After any search involving students, parents/carers will be contacted by the School, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative, unless it is not in the best interests of the student.
 - (viii) Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the security cupboard.
 - (ix) If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately (in order that they may collect it for identification) and/or then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. Parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
 - (x) A detailed record of the incident will be made by the Deputy Headmaster. A copy of the record will be kept by the Head Master. There will be no other copies of the incidents. References to an incident(s) having taken place will be made on CPOMS though the full details will not.
 - (xi) The School will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

Responses to drug related incidents

The School will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals. It must be stated however that the bringing of drugs (of the type identified in the Misuse of Drugs Act and The Psychoactive Substances Act) to supply others within the community is most likely to end in permanent exclusion for those students involved.

- (i) While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act/ The Psychoactive Substances Act is suspected, or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police dependent upon the particular circumstances. If so, the Head Master, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.
- (ii) Students may be directed by the Head Master to remain at home while the drugs related incident is under investigation, and until such time as the Head is in such a position as to determine the outcome.
- (iii) An urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Head Master and appropriate member of SLT) in order to decide whether others outside the School should be informed. These may include parents/carers, the appropriate personnel in the LA, Childrens' Social Care and police.
- (iv) Responses to/sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Head Master, appropriate member(s) of staff, and other appropriate colleagues. Possible responses include:
 - targeted intervention
 - referral – counselling
 - behaviour support plans
 - inter-agency programmes

- fixed-term exclusion - pastoral support programmes
- a managed move
- permanent exclusion

Responses and sanctions will take into account:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned
- the short and long term welfare of other students
- guidance in DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001-2012) consistency with published school rules, codes and expectations
- consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents
- consistency with disciplinary action for other misdemeanours.

(iv) The Head Master will take responsibility for liaison with the media if required.

The School reserves the right to take action in respect of any pupil who is cautioned or convicted of an offence relating to the possession etc of illegal drugs, even where this has not occurred in the circumstances described above.

The Role of the Staff

- i) In the event that a member of staff suspects the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on the premises or in any of the circumstances set out above, they must inform the Head Master (or in his absence a Deputy) without delay (and in any event within 1 hour) so that appropriate action can be taken.
- ii. “Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make clear to the pupil that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse”. (Circular 4/95). The teacher must inform the Head Master, who in turn will inform parents, unless it is not in the best interests of the student to do so. The Head Master may direct the parents and pupil to sources of confidential advice.
- iii Any member of staff who suspects offences involving the possession use or supply of illegal drugs in close proximity to the School premises shall report the matter to the Head Master (or in his absence a Deputy) who shall report the matter to the Police *“if it is considered appropriate”*.
- iv. Staff may take temporary possession of drugs for safety but must not attempt to analyse or test them. The sample should be left in a secure place pending instructions from the police.
- v. Teachers should always have another senior member of staff present, to act as a witness (usually the Head Master or a Deputy):
 - Pupils’ desks, lockers or bags must be searched if staff believe illegal substances are there.
 - Pupils may be asked to empty their pockets, but intimate pupil searches should never be made by a teacher.
- vi. Any pupil suspected of possession will be supervised until the immediate situation is clarified.

- vii. A pupil taking public examinations would be allowed to sit the exam that day; it may be necessary for parents to make alternative arrangements for subsequent exams, e.g. home invigilation or referral to an external agency.
- viii. Signed, dated, written statements must be provided by all (both pupils and staff) involved in any incident without delay.
- ix. It is the duty of staff who take students out of school on trips, visits or residential to be fully aware of the School's Drugs Policy and how best to act in the event of a drugs incident arising.

Involvement of the Police

Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, the Secretary of State would expect the Police to be informed when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises." (Drug Prevention and School, Circular 4/95).

Should this be the case in this School, the Head Master or in his absence a Deputy, will notify the local police. Pupils involved may be interviewed by the police on the School premises once their parents have been informed. In such cases it is hoped that parents will be present and every effort will be made to facilitate this. If this is not possible a senior member of staff will be in the room.

Sanctions

These will be imposed by the Head Master in accordance with School Rules.

Tobacco (including electronic cigarettes & vapours)

Rules

Smoking is strictly forbidden in all of the following circumstances: -

1. on the journey to or from school.
2. on any school visit, including residential visits.
3. at any time while in school uniform.
4. during the School day.
5. on the School premises.

Sanctions

Sanctions will be imposed at the discretion of the Head Master.

Alcohol

Rules

Alcohol consumption or possession are not allowed:

1. on the journey to or from school
2. on any school visit, including residential visits
3. at any time while in school uniform
4. during the School day
5. on the School premises

Sanctions

Sanctions will be imposed at the discretion of the Head Master.

Drugs

Rules

The possession of drugs within school, and/or with the intent to supply are considered so serious and so detrimental to the health and safety of the AGSB community, that the most severe of punishments i.e. permanent exclusion, is always likely as an outcome.

Sanctions

All sanctions are at the discretion of the Head Master

4. Care of Drug Misusers

The School will attempt to ensure that any pupil offending against this policy, will receive suitable counselling, advice and support where appropriate. The pupil's parents have a primary role and duty in this respect and they will be supported by the School in their endeavours.

Staff are asked to refer any outside enquiries to the Headmaster and not comment publicly themselves.

5. Role of Governors

The Governors of the School do not condone the possession or use of drugs, as outlined above, by members of the School, nor the supply of these substances. They require that firm, but appropriate, action shall be taken against any individual or group possessing, using or trading these drugs.

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the School, governors have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy.

Appendix 1

(a) The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

“It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- i. To supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act.
- ii. To be in possession or, to possess with intent to supply to another controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he took all such steps as were reasonably open to him to destroy the drugs or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.
- iii. For the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply; or offering to supply of any controlled drug.”

(b) The Law in Relation to Tobacco and Alcohol

- i. It is an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.
It is an offence under Section 6 of the Children and Young Person Act 1933 to give any child under the age of 5 intoxicating liquor.
- ii. The Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 strengthened the existing law on illegal sales of tobacco products to children under the age of 16.

Appendix 2

Useful Organisations:

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems. Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk. Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk. Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk. Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk. Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450. Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day).

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners. Website: www.drugeducationforum.com

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs Drug, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk. Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children

about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com. Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org. Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000. Website: www.ncb.org.uk.

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222. Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: information@re-solv.org. Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree- NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169. Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

Appendix 3 Checklist for dealing with a Drugs Incident

- 1. Check that the student(s) are safe.**
- 2. Remove the suspected drugs from their possession and store in a safe place i.e. school safe. Do so in the presence of another member of staff/adult.**
- 3. If more than one student is involved, keep them separate.**
- 4. If there are witnesses, separate and obtain written statements.**
- 5. Inform the Head Master as soon as possible.**
- 6. Interview each in the presence of another member of staff.**
- 7. Get each to write a Statement, and see they sign and date it.**
- 8. Consider whether the incident is serious enough to contact the Police (if in doubt seek their advice).**
- 9. Inform the Parents/Carers unless it is not in the best interests of the student to do so (if there are safeguarding concerns for example).**
- 10. Police will advise on collection or disposal of the drugs (the latter should only ever be done in the presence of another member of staff).**