

Drugs Education Policy

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Aims of this policy

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

Policy context

The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care, health and safety of students.

This Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education non-statutory advice and guidance (*DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools; DfE-00001-2012*).

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through PSHE lessons, science lessons, tutor periods and assemblies.

We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: “A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”. Here, ‘drugs’ is used to refer to illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) and all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines, and new psychoactive substances. By ‘drugs paraphernalia’ we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playing fields and also extends to include other settings such as school minibuses or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

This policy also applies to the underpass that runs under Winchester Road.

Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone’s safety. Please refer to our Medical Conditions Policy.

Alcohol

If alcohol is being given as a present for any member of staff, it must be brought to reception and left there to be collected; at no time should alcohol be left in classrooms. During the course of a standard school day (i.e. a normal teaching day), no alcohol may be brought on to the school premises or consumed. There are exceptions to alcohol being consumed on school site and these are staff events (when there are no students present) or in the vicinity of Thornden Hall where there is a fully licensed bar.

Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Any student under the effect of alcohol will be kept safe until they are collected from school by their parents/carers and we will then encourage them to seek immediate medical support. Any bottles of alcohol found (either on the student or in another location) will be tipped away so that we do not store it in school. An appropriate sanction will then be put in place.

Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring ‘smoking paraphernalia’ to school. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, the paraphernalia will be confiscated and destroyed and the parents will be informed and sanctions applied. This also applies to “vaping” and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and “psychoactive substances”

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is

considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or “glamorise” illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking platforms, including WhatsApp, is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy and will result in further sanctions.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents

Drug 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 suggests student(s) are involved in substance misuse; and
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity/hiding drugs in or around the school premises

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

- a) 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.
- b) The Headteacher or an available member of SLT will be informed of the situation immediately.
- c) Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or a member of SLT as soon as possible 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.
- d) The Headteacher or a member of SLT will inform, consult, and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- e) Details on student searches is detailed in the Behaviour Policy.
- f) Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there.
- g) If something illegal, or of concern is discovered then parents and carers will be notified by the school.
- h) Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. 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 then store or dispose of it in line with locally

agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.

- a. A detailed record of the incident will be made on CPOMS, as per the school procedures.
- b. The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies. The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with them, as per the Behaviour Policy.

Suspension from Thornden School is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour for Learning Policies.

and

Allowing a student to remain at Thornden School would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police.

Confiscated illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Children's Services, Youth Offending Team, Catch 22 or the GP may be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Thornden School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Safeguarding & Child Protection policy for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant.

Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Pastoral team, School Nurse, Head of Year or Tutor)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support or
- Working with the Police

Right to Search

In line with legislation the staff at Thornden School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.

Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team (with a Head of Year if appropriate) of the same gender as the student (if this is possible) and Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened. Students will be asked to read and sign a Search Form as part of this process and this will be stored in the student file and recorded on CPOMs.

Thornden School works closely with its Police Community Support Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, unless there are reasons why this should not be the case (for instance, serious safeguarding concerns). Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Annex 1

Drugs Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. The following aims of drug education at Thornden will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families, and communities
 - local and national use
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.
- To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information as sources of help. This includes local and national, youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education.

Drug Education Content

Thornden provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

- (i) Science lessons (the content of which is statutory):
 - Key Stage 3: Students should be taught that "conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease"
 - Key Stage 4: Students should be able to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of treating cardiovascular diseases and other diseases by drugs. Students should be taught that HIV is spread by sexual contact or exchange of body fluids such as blood which occurs when drug users share needles. Unless successfully controlled

with antiretroviral drugs the virus attacks the body's immune cells. Students should also know about drug trials, where drugs come from and that drugs are used for contraception, fertility and to kill bacteria (antibiotics).

- (ii) PD lessons and tutor periods which includes specific drugs education such as "facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse, and 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" as well as other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills.
- (iii) Citizenship lessons which provide opportunities to understand rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities, to explore moral, social and cultural issues and to discuss and debate topical issues.
- (iv) Other curriculum areas such as Religious Education and Physical Education
- (v) Assemblies
- (vi) Use of a drug dog (in consultation with local schools)

Organisation

- a) Responsibility for coordination
 - The coordination of Drugs Education is the responsibility of the Assistant Headteacher. Each Head of Department has responsibility for elements of drugs education where it is taught within their subject.
- b) Delivery
 - This is through assemblies, tutor periods and bespoke PD lessons in Year 9, 10 and 11.
- c) Staffing
 - Teachers, as tutors, deliver most of the drug education programme in Years 7 and 8 through the tutor period. PD lessons which have a specific drugs education focus (in Years 9, 10 and 11) are normally delivered by a specialist teacher in mixed gender and ability groups. Other staff who may deliver specific aspects of Drug Education will have access to on-going advice, support and appropriate training as part of their own professional development.
- d) Visitors
 - Occasionally, appropriate, and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of drug education.
- e) Students with special educational needs (SEN)
 - Relevant staff will ensure that drug education is accessible to students with special educational needs by considering resources and materials used, timings, teaching strategies etc.
- f) Teaching strategies and resources
 - A variety of teaching strategies is used but active learning methods are used at all times. A wide range of materials are also available to teachers and can be inspected by parents on request.
- g) Monitoring and evaluation
 - This is conducted through some lesson observations and through the PSHE reviews and written evaluations by students in the Year 11 survey. These are all used to inform future planning.

Specific issues

The following issues may occur within Drugs Education:

a) Confidentiality

- Staff always ensure that students know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- All students are offered sensitive and appropriate support as needed.
- Students are encouraged to talk to their parents and carers and supported to do so.
- Information about sources of help is made available e.g., helplines.
- If there is any possibility that a child may be at risk or putting others at risk, the school's
- Child Protection & Safeguarding procedures are followed. Staff will reassure students that their best interests will be maintained, and any child concerned will be supported through the process.

b) Dealing with questions

- Ground rules established with the class set clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting.
- Students' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the student concerned. Questions may be addressed individually later if more appropriate.
- Staff are given appropriate support, advice and training for dealing with questions.
- If a teacher is concerned, they will follow the Child Protection & Safeguarding procedures.

Annex 2

Useful organisations

ADFAM - offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK - 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 3907 8480

Email: contact@alcoholchange.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 7404 0242

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: <http://ash.org.uk>

CATCH 22 - Hampshire 24/7 (Substance Misuse Support); a county-wide service offering specialist, targeted and family support for children and young people effected by substance misuse.

Tel: 0845 459 9405

Email: chris.cunnane@catch-22.org.uk or 247Hants@catch-22.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 714 650 (general queries only)

Email: info@coramclc.org.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 7766 9900

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: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise - is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, 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.drugwise.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: 0300 123 6600

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: 020 963 2751.

Email: admin@mentoruk.org

Website: <https://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: 0808 800 2222

Website: www.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.

Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Stars National Initiative - offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.childrenssociety.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>

Annex 3 – Guidance for Staff

Some signs of drug abuse can be confused with signs of other problems of quite innocent behaviour. Therefore, it is important that all staff (teaching and non-teaching) should take extreme care about not jumping to a conclusion, which might be inappropriate. However, in order to support staff in their identification of possible drug and alcohol misuse or related behaviour the information below has been included in this policy. If a member of staff has any concerns they should speak to DSL/DDSL, pastoral staff and/or SLT.

Equipment that may be used for drug use:

- Containers made from silver foil perhaps discoloured by heat
- Small bottles or pillboxes
- Stash cans – disguised as everyday objects e.g. deodorants or coke cans
- Twists of paper
- Straws
- Syringes or needles
- Empty solvent containers
- Cigarette lighters
- Drinks cans with extra holes and signs of scorching
- Spoons discoloured by heat
- Sugar lumps
- Spent matches
- Plastic bags or butane gas containers
- Stamps, stickers, transfers
- Grinders

Physical symptoms/signs of drug use:

- Sudden changes in mood/behaviour, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Drowsiness, sleepiness or slurred speech
- Unusual small, stained or marks on clothing or body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Flushed face or neck
- Dilated pupils
- Small groups meeting in secretive places
- Unsteady on feet
- Staining on hands

Social Presentation:

- Keeping away from other students
- Being the subject of rumour about drugs
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Unexplained loss of money or belongings from home
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods that are then sold
- Changes in attendance patterns
- Reluctance to participate in school activities
- Loss of interest in a sport or a hobby
- Sudden changes in friendship group
- Performance at school shows a marked decline
- Strangers on or around the school premise