



IPSWICH SCHOOL

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The Drugs and Alcohol Policy aims to:

- acknowledge and clarify the school's role in preventing the misuse of drugs and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs;
- provide information about procedures in response to drug-related incidents;
- provide guidance to teachers, support staff and governors;
- have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents and applying appropriate sanctions.

Definition

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and 'legal highs', over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school, or during the school day, or on school visits, is inappropriate except for:

- drugs that have been medically prescribed;
- the consumption of small quantities of alcohol by senior pupils, with meals, on approved and supervised occasions.

Drugs Education

The Drugs Education Policy ensures that we take a whole school approach on the issue of drugs. This forms part of the PSHE programme (see PSHE Scheme of Work). Drugs education will:

- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes, and developing and practising skills;
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;
- provide accurate information about substances;
- increase understanding about the implications, and possible consequences, of use and misuse;
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use;
- widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS;
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face;
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

The school will make occasional use of outside speakers, either with pupils or parents, providing that the speakers are felt to be in sympathy with the aims of the school's Drugs Education policy.

Given parental support, appropriate counselling and help will be offered to pupils who are misusing drugs in their life outside school, via Matron and the school's pastoral system.

Responsibility

The Headmaster takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, and appropriate outside agencies and for ensuring that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained. The following are normally delegated:

- Drugs education within the Curriculum – to the Head of Biology, who co-ordinates drugs education within that subject, and to Matron who is responsible for the Drugs component in Year 9 PSHE;
- Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) – who carries out the initial stages of investigation into drug possession or drug related incidents.

Drug Related Incidents – Medical Response

The usual response is to contact Matron.

Investigation

The Headmaster/Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) will normally inform parents if there are allegations or suspicions of drug abuse emanating from staff or pupils, unless the grounds seem very slim. It may be appropriate to point out that these allegations are being relayed 'as a matter of report than of accusation'.

Suspicions or accusations of drug possession on the school premises must be brought to the attention of the Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral), who will co-ordinate the investigation and keep the Headmaster informed. The *DFE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools* document <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools> offers useful guidance on this. In carrying out the investigation, it is important to note that:

- A pupil should be reminded of the importance of co-operation with the school.
- Two staff should be present (except for preliminary investigations) and careful written records kept.
- The pupil should be asked whether they are in possession of drugs. If they say 'no' they should be invited to co-operate by turning out their pockets and handing over their bag to be searched. (Guidance on searching with and without consent can be found in the Drugs File in the Headmaster's PA's office.) Pupils may also be asked to unlock their locker and the school can search this without the pupil's consent if necessary.
- If the pupil refuses to co-operate, a decision must be made as to whether to release him/her or whether to ask parents to come to school and use their authority to ensure co-operation. If a personal search is unavoidable it may be appropriate to contact the police and request this.
- Any pupil who is in possession of drugs is likely to try and 'dump' them surreptitiously. Teachers need to be aware of this and to keep a watchful eye. The

request to 'go to the toilet' is one obvious ploy. Teachers also need to be aware that pupils, even if 'isolated' may communicate by text message/mobile phone.

- Any drugs confiscated from pupils will be given to the police for disposal as soon as possible.
- Whether or not drugs are found, parents must be informed of the school's investigation.
- There is no legal obligation to inform the police, but it is the school's policy to do so except in exceptional circumstances. A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply or consumption of any controlled drug. If it is suspected that substances are being regularly exchanged or sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, with as much information as possible, may be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Affairs Department together with a request for a police investigation.
- The Headmaster will inform the Chairman of Governors about substantive drugs investigations.

Sanction

(See School Regulations). The school will consider each substance incident individually and will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interest of the pupil involved, with the interests of the other school members. Because of the severity of drug misuse/abuse, any pupil who possesses an illegal substance at school or on a school activity will almost certainly be suspended and most probably expelled. Under unusual circumstances the Headmaster may consider keeping a pupil at the school on the understanding that he/she agrees to random drug testing and that any positive test would result in automatic expulsion.

Publicity

The Headmaster or Press Officer will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. If the police have been informed about a drugs incident, and until they have taken whatever action they decide on, enquirers from the media should be told that no comment can be made, other than to confirm the school has asked the police to investigate. The media will normally contact the police press office.

Careful consideration will be given to whether the wider parent body should be informed and whether a press statement should be issued.

Alcohol

All staff should be aware of school policy, as expressed in the Staff Handbook.

Tobacco

Smoking, including 'vaping', is against school rules.

References

DFE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

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