



The Meadows

Drugs Policy

2022 -23

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The Meadows School believes that the possession and use of unauthorised drugs is wrong and therefore we do not condone their use in or out of school.

1. Terminology

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers).
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

2. Boundaries

The possession or use of prohibited substances on The Meadows School site is absolutely forbidden. The "school site" (as defined) will apply in the following situations:

- All school grounds, inside and outside the school designated buildings,
- Other designated premises, if pupils are part educated at partner institutions,
- Educational trips and journeys (residential and non-residential),
- Work experience placements,

Pupils returning to the school site who are suspected to be under the influence of substances taken whilst off site are also included under this policy

3. Drugs Education

The School provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills.

The National Curriculum Science Order is followed and this outlines the content of the statutory drugs education:

Key Stage 3: 11-14 year olds should be taught that "conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease"

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Key Stage 4: 14-16 year olds should be taught that “human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors, by the use and misuse of drugs and by medical treatments”.

PSHE at Key Stages 3 and 4 includes specific drugs education such as facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco / vaping, and the personal and social consequences of misuse. The curriculum teaches 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.

Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4 contributes to drug education by providing 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.

Other curriculum areas such as Physical Education also contribute to aspects of the drug education curriculum.

Drugs Education is taught by a teacher supported by a teaching assistant AND where appropriate outside visitors may contribute to drugs education i.e. school nurse, drugs liaison police officer, Humankind. Teachers and learning mentors have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

Staff are informed of the Misuse of Drugs Act and are aware of the legal aspects and effects of substance misuse.

5. Managing a drugs related incident

If staff have knowledge either by what has been seen or has been told by a reliable source – that a prohibited activity is taking place SLT must be informed. There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support or advice.

Circular 4/95 states that '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 the School premises.

- An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.
- The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. administering first aid and calling the emergency services if deemed necessary.
- If any pupil be found in possession of an unauthorised drug, the substance will be confiscated, in the presence of a witness and put in the safe of the main office. It is permitted by law for school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and the offence of possession.

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- A record of the incident and all witness statements will be kept by the Head Teacher, who will record all the relevant details.
- The Head Teacher will be informed and will take a lead role in deciding how to respond further
- Parents / carers will normally be informed
- Parents/carers will be advised of additional support available.
- No member staff should attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance
- We may contact the local police for advice or in order to identify and or dispose of the substance if it is not something we can do ourselves, although it is not a legal obligation for us to do so.
- If a pupil is suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person every effort will be made to secure the voluntary production of such drugs. This will be carried out in the presence of a witness.
- The range of responses used for rule breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions and will depend upon the nature and gravity of the offence.
- If any pupil is thought to be 'under the influence' medical help in the form of a paramedic / ambulance will be sought at once and first aid will be given if required. This is not an appropriate time to question the pupil. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

The following staff are trained and qualified in First Aid:

Tom Abbot
 Stephanie Atkinson
 Derek Chapman
 Ian Clark
 Steve Cobain
 Avril Craik
 Dominic Dimuccio
 Lisa Durbridge
 Kay Lodge
 Lisa Morrison
 Jade Patterson
 Amy Tray
 John Waistell
 Robert Walker

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The School will consider each incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents in order to act in the best interests of both the pupil and the School community.

Confidentiality in managing a drugs related incident will be given. Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils.

Parental / carer drug use disclosure by pupils and/or observed behaviours by staff of parents / carers under the influence of drugs will be dealt with under the Safeguarding Policy.

6. Smoking / Vaping

The Meadows School is a smoke free environment in line with Durham Council policy and national legislation.

Smoking is not permitted on site.

Students suspected of bringing cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes and smoking paraphernalia into school will be approached in a non-confrontational manner. Authorised searches can be performed by the Head Teacher and identified T5 staff. If found, cigarettes and smoking / vaping related items will be confiscated and not returned.

Guidance is complex and is therefore these links are included:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209993/DfE_and_ACPO_drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

Staff notice and directly comment, recording on the Behaviour Log on the Staff Portal so that communication with parents/carers is completed.

Staff update risk assessment for individual students.

Staff use and develop scripts to explore students thinking and prompt thinking about behaviour choices and possible change

Invitation / prompt to discussion with School Nurse

Letter home highlighting School Nurse Support

Home / School planning problem solve and review focusing on goal setting and individual support plan for change

Support is being offered to quit smoking / vaping as nicotine is highly addictive and research shows that children /young people and adults are more likely to quit smoking with support. Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). This support is available on prescription from GP services following consultation for students 12 years old and above

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Staff challenge needs to be non confrontational as this will promote thinking and ensure safety of staff and students.

Staff have a duty of care to educate students about the health-related dangers of smoking. Staff must also remain mindful of their need to exercise a duty of care and understand the potential dangers connected with the school site positioned next to a busy road.

External referral to the Durham Drugs and Alcohol Team is in discussion with parents / carers and young people to confirm consent and agreement as the service is able to support those who want to change their behaviour.

Tel:03000 266666

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3118/Drug-and-alcohol-help-and-support-for-young-people>

Strategies used to educate students about the dangers of smoking / vaping are embedded in the curriculum. Targeted education sessions are promoted alongside developing a healthy lifestyle.

Smoke Free Vape Free Policy should be read in conjunction with this policy.

7. Staff Issues

Any employee of the School taking illegal drugs on school premises or during school hours or selling or buying such drugs or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol during school hours will be reported to the Council's designated officer and will be suspended on the grounds of potential gross misconduct and would face possible summary dismissal following a Management Committee disciplinary hearing. Employees are warned that the effects of taking drugs can last for many days after they are taken. An employee may therefore be judged to be under the influence of drugs days after they are taken.

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