

John Port Spencer Academy



DRUGS POLICY

Safeguarding Team

Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr L Shepherd

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs C Golaub

Safeguarding Officers (Mental Health Leads): Mr W Perry and Mrs V Davies

Safeguarding Officer (Anti-Bullying Lead): Miss A Southall

Designated Lead for Prevent: Mr N Collier

Designated Lead for Sixth Form: Mrs G Barnett

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Mrs C Golaub

Designated Link Governor for Safeguarding: Mrs E Twigg

Other John Port School documents/policies referred to are:

John Port School's Search and Confiscation Policy

Revised: August 2019

To be reviewed: December 2020 or before

Drugs Policy

Background to the Policy

This policy has been drawn up in line with advice given by the Department of Education and the Association of Chief Police Officers. This policy works alongside the Search and Confiscation Policy.

The term drugs and harmful substances refers to those categorised in law as illegal or controlled (e.g. Class A, B and C drugs), those which are not illegal but age restricted (e.g. Tobacco, Alcohol, Solvents etc.) and novel psychoactive substances or “legal highs”.

John Port School takes very seriously its responsibility to support members of its community who experience drug problems. It also takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard members of its community against the hazards and dangers brought about by the use of drugs and harmful substances and will do everything in its power to ensure that the site remains free of such substances.

The Governors and staff will not tolerate:

- a) students bringing drugs and harmful substances into school
- b) students using drugs and harmful substances in school
- c) students dealing in drugs and harmful substances in school

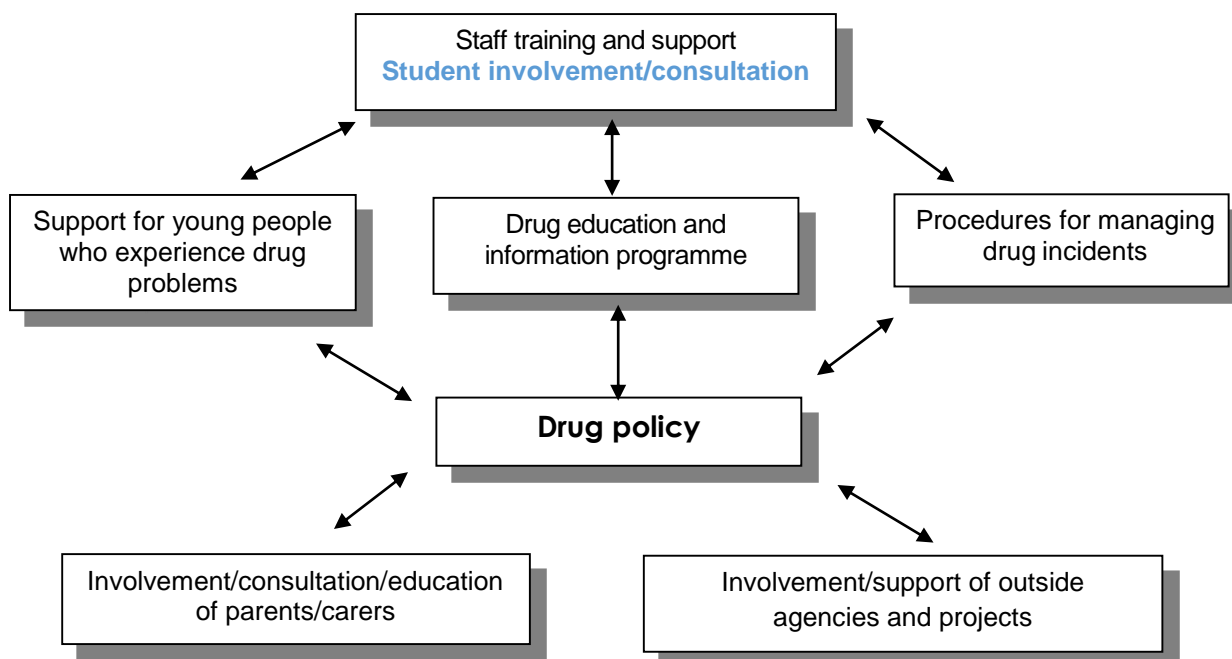
Dealing is defined as the passing on and receiving of an illegal substance without coercion. Money or goods do not need to change hands.

Whole School Approach

Where students are alert to the dangers of drug and substance abuse they are less likely to partake in it. Drugs education is structured into the curriculum but the school will also be flexible in adopting campaigns and making presentations in the face of particular challenges. Drug education will be delivered and developed within the context of:

- The Enrichment programme
- Appropriate support, training and resourcing of staff

The model below shows the main components of our whole school approach to drug education.



The school maintains an awareness of the changing dynamics of the ‘drug scene’ through its connections with external agencies and the police via its monthly ‘Multi Agency’ meetings. The school will educate students on a regular basis [via assemblies, enrichment days and other means] to the dangers regarding

drugs, reinforcing the policy's message and emphasising that, under no circumstances, should drugs be brought onto the site

Support for Students experiencing Problems with Drugs or Harmful Substances

Students who are known to be experiencing problems with drugs or harmful substances will be offered support via dedicated and specialist organisations and agencies. These are to be accessed via MAT (Multi Agency Team) or School Health. These are the most efficient routes to access services commissioned by the NHS or the Derbyshire Recovery Partnership. Whilst it is desirable and often beneficial to engage parents in supporting the young person the right to confidentiality needs to be observed as with all medical issues.

Legal Obligations

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act it is an offence for staff to allow school premises to be used for the use, administration, production or supply of controlled drugs.

School premises includes the temporary base for students e.g. a field study centre etc.

The law requires that if staff become aware of the use, administration, production or supply of controlled drugs on school premises, they must take prompt and reasonable action to prevent this continuing.

If staff know that young people, parents/carers or anyone else are in possession of (or have been using or supplying) illegal drugs, they do **not** have a legal obligation to inform the police. It is an offence, however, for staff to abet a crime or obstruct the police by, for example, hiding drugs or by helping a young person to avoid arrest.

At John Port School, the preferred course of action is to communicate with the Police though this may not involve the disclosure of names unless compelled to do so to assist in a criminal investigation.

Managing 'Controlled' Drug Incidents in School

The school will deal with drug related incidents in a firm and considered manner. If a student is found in possession of any controlled substance or dealing in it, the matter should be reported immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership team who will organise an investigation. Under no circumstances should the student be left alone.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs, schools are advised to:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- Store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- Notify the police immediately, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the young person from whom the drugs were taken however, the school must co-operate with any legitimate police requests during a criminal inquiry.
- Record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number.
- Inform parents/carers as soon as possible, unless this is not in the best interest of the young person. The Child Protection Officer needs to be informed in case a referral to Social Service is necessary.
- In the case of being in a remote situation (e.g. a foreign trip), it may be more advisable to dispose of the item by flushing it down the toilet. A second witness is required for this action and a record should be kept of having taking the action.

Any student caught in possession or discovered to have used or be using a controlled substance whilst on the school premises or on any journey visit organised by the school will face sanctions that include the possibility of exclusion. The response of the school will be governed by the nature of the incident and the impact on the wider student body. The DFE advises that exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug incident and permanent exclusion should only be used in serious cases. However, for any student found to be dealing in drugs on the school premises or on any journey/visit organised by the John School permanent exclusion will be the normal sanction. (Please note the earlier definition of dealing).

Parents of students caught in possession, using or dealing controlled substances will be informed of external agencies or groups who may offer support to the family.

If students disclose that they are using drugs off the school site, a professional judgement will be made about informing parents. In every case, students will be encouraged to talk to parents and seek help where necessary. Disciplinary action against students under these circumstances will not apply.

Whole School Approach

The Education Act give the power to schools to search pupils without consent for any dangerous or banned items. John Port School will exercise this right only if there is a clear indication that a student is carrying such items and that the student has not complied with a request to voluntarily turn out their pockets and/or bags. In such a case, it would be advisable to request assistance from the police. Searches on behalf of the school should be carried out by two persons one of whom should be on the Senior Leadership Team.

When a search is requested by the Police the school must comply with that request, as it would be an offence to impede the Police in their investigations. The school will offer to provide an appropriate adult to be present to ensure that a student's safeguarding requirements are observed.

Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child.

Whole School Approach

- **Tobacco** - Schools are subject to the same smoke-free legislation as other premises. Students who are smokers will be provided with access to support e.g. smoking cessation classes. Persistent smokers will be given incremental sanctions, which may include fixed-term exclusions.
- **Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigarettes or E-Cigs)** - have been promoted as a 'healthy' alternative to smoking. That this is the case has not been established. On 1 October 2015, it became illegal for retailers to sell electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or e-liquids to someone under 18. John Port School site has a 'smoke-free policy'. Employees and students found using 'Electronic Cigarettes' on site will be in breach of that policy. Students found to have 'Electronic Cigarettes' in their possession will have them confiscated. Parents who wish them to be returned may collect them from school.
- **Alcohol** is not permitted on school premises neither are any psychoactive novel drugs ('legal highs'). Possession of such items could lead to severe sanctions including exclusion. The misuse of drugs normally classed as medicines will similarly be dealt with severely.
- The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but schools may wish to inform trading standards about the inappropriate sale of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to students.

Training

Training will be provided on an "at need" basis. Key staff notably members of the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year and their teams, the School First Aider, members of the Site Management Team, Mid-day Supervisors and cleaning services team will receive priority

Involvement of Students

Students will be made aware of this policy via the Enrichment Programme, Life Studies and Registration periods.