



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
**HIPPERHOLME**  
Established 1648

# **POLICY FOR MIS-USE OF DRUGS**

## **MIS-USE OF DRUGS POLICY**

### **Definition of the term 'drugs'**

The term 'drugs' is used to refer to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco which have a particular significance in relation to pupils, and volatile substances (i.e. those giving off a gas or vapour that can be inhaled).
- All over the counter and prescription medicines.

### **THE MIS-USE OF DRUGS**

#### **Policy Statement**

Hipperholme Grammar School seeks, by education and deterrence, to prevent misuse of illegal drugs by its pupils.

#### **Procedure**

Any pupil, who is recognisable as a member of the school community and is discovered in term time, holidays, at school or elsewhere, to be in possession of illegal drugs, using drugs, passing drugs, under the influence of drugs or promoting the drugs culture, may expect to be excluded temporarily and, in almost all cases, permanently. The term "drugs" includes solvents and similar substances. The police will be informed of any pupil who is believed to be breaking the law.

If any pupil approaches a member of staff for help or advice over drugs, the member of staff will do everything in their power to be sympathetic. At the same time, there is a duty to protect other pupils and the reputation of the school. Pupils should always be aware that they can be recognisable as members of the school community even when off the school site and out of uniform, for instance, at a Saturday evening party.

Information about drugs will always be dealt with confidentially, and it is hoped members of the School community (parents and pupils) will see it as protecting others to pass on such information directly to the Headmaster.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

### **Introduction**

#### **Documents used to write this policy**

- Every Child Matters
- DCFS Drugs Guidance for Schools 2004
- The revised National Curriculum 2000
- The National Drugs' Strategy
- The National Healthy Schools' Strategy
- The right approach: quality standards in drugs' education (Drug Scope)

**Drugs Education is covered in many subject areas, in particular:**

- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Tutor periods
- Science
- Religious Studies

**Aims**

- To provide accurate information and correct misconceptions about drugs and to build on pupils' knowledge and understanding.
- To explore attitudes towards drugs, drug users and use of drugs
- To develop pupils' self-awareness, self-esteem and interpersonal skills.
- To explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

N.B. Drugs Education cannot be value free

**Statutory Requirements**

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) students should be taught:

- That the abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health.
- That the body's natural defence may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines
- How smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) students should be taught:

- The effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions.

**Non-Statutory Guidelines** (Taken from QCA Guidance for Schools)

<b>Key Stage 3 (Years 7- 9)</b>	<b>Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11)</b>
<p><b>Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School rules relating to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.</li> <li>▪ Information about legal drugs (including prescribed and over the counter medicine) and illegal drugs - their effects and associated health risks</li> <li>▪ Different categories of drugs</li> <li>▪ Key words including: abuse, tolerance, dependence, overdose and withdrawal</li> <li>▪ The law relating to drugs</li> <li>▪ The effect of different levels of alcohol intake</li> <li>▪ The misuse of drugs in sport</li> <li>▪ Advice and support in the locality, national help lines and organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School rules relating to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.</li> <li>▪ Information about drugs including their legal status, effects and appearance</li> <li>▪ Personal, social, financial, biological and psychological effects of misuse of drugs</li> <li>▪ Patterns of drug misuse, locally and nationally and the impact on the community</li> <li>▪ Dangers associated with particular drugs, mixing of drugs and specific environments and moods</li> <li>▪ Drugs in this country including education, prevention, policing and legal aspects, penalties, treatment and rehabilitation</li> <li>▪ Legal rights and responsibilities</li> <li>▪ The services provided by local and national advice and support agencies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying risks to health</li> <li>▪ Communicating with peers, parents and professionals</li> <li>▪ Decision making and assertiveness</li> <li>▪ Giving and securing help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying risks to health</li> <li>▪ Communicating with peers, parents and professionals</li> <li>▪ Decision making and assertiveness</li> <li>▪ Managing conflict</li> <li>▪ Communicating drug advice to younger people</li> <li>▪ Giving and securing help</li> </ul>
<p><b>Attitudes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attitudes and beliefs about different drug users</li> <li>▪ Impact of the media and advertising</li> <li>▪ Attitudes towards drugs and laws</li> <li>▪ Recognition of oneself as a role model and acceptance of responsibility for one's actions</li> <li>▪ Taking responsibility for one's own and other pupils' safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social and cultural influences on young people</li> <li>▪ Attitudes towards drugs, drug users and misusers and laws relating to drugs</li> <li>▪ Individuals' responsibility for their own actions.</li> </ul>

## **Child Protection and Confidentiality**

Staff are reminded that they cannot offer confidentiality in this instance to pupils. Any concerns must be passed to the Child Protection Officer (Mrs Graham or Mrs Reynolds). Please consult the Safeguarding Children Policy re: appropriate action if a pupil begins to disclose information.

All visitors from outside agencies will follow the school guidelines and a member of staff will be present during their delivery of material to ensure that this is followed.

## **The Role of Parents**

Parents will be encouraged to work in partnership with the school in the rejection any drug culture and to support the school in the work of educating pupils in the dangers of abuse / misuse of drugs. Parents are expected to support the school's policy of zero tolerance of drug use and to ensure that their children are aware of the consequences of abuse / misuse of drugs.

## **The National Drug Strategy**

The drugs action strategy involves all young people, schools and parents/carers and they will also be involved in the forthcoming National Alcohol Harm Reduction strategy. It aims to reduce the harm caused by drugs by improving education.

## **Mis-use of Drugs Incident**

### **Procedures for dealing with suspected drug-related incidents**

#### **Disclosure**

If a pupil makes a disclosure that he/she has been using drugs or misusing substances, we must remember never to promise confidentiality (refer to Safeguarding Children Policy). Disclosure usually indicates a need for help, and the pupil has to be made aware immediately that we will need to talk to other adults who are able to help. Such disclosures should be discussed with a member of the Senior Management Team before action is agreed.

#### **Suspicion/ Rumour/Allegations**

The following list of warning signs are offered to assist staff in their work. They are not, of course, in themselves, conclusive.

#### **Warning signs in individuals**

- excessive spending or borrowing of money
- stealing from parents or other pupils / relatives
- attendance pattern changes or sudden unwillingness to participate in school activities
- unusual outbursts of temper
- disregard for physical appearance
- lack of appetite

- being the subject of rumours
- dilated pupils
- lethargy / lack of energy in many aspects of school life
- being the subject of rumours
- exchanging money/objects in suspicious circumstances
- talking to strangers / ex-pupils near school premises
- associating briefly with an older pupil who is not normally part of the group
- use of drugs slang

### **Objects or signs which may indicate drug use**

- foil containers which may be discoloured by heat
- metal tins or containers
- spoons or similar which have been discoloured by heat
- Rizla papers with torn packaging
- hand-rolled cigarettes and /or cigarette lighters
- plastic bags
- butane gas canisters or lighter fluid
- an unusual aromatic odour
- cardboard or similar tubes
- paper approx 2 inches' square folded to form a square
- small bottles, phials or pill boxes

All suspicions of drug abuse / misuse must be reported to a member of the Senior Management Team who will consider appropriate action including contacting parents.

### **Intoxication**

If a student's unusual, irrational or inappropriate behaviour gives staff a strong suspicion that he/she is under the influence of an unauthorised /illegal substance, parents will be contacted and asked to collect the pupil and take him/her home.

### **Smoking & Alcohol**

Pupils are not permitted to bring alcohol into school. The school has occasional Licences to consume alcohol with food on the premises, usually for a Parent-Teacher event.

Hipperholme Grammar School and Hipperholme Grammar Junior School are both non smoking sites. Staff, pupils and visitors are not permitted to smoke anywhere on the school premises. Staff and pupils are further not allowed to smoke when travelling on school transport or when taking part in any off-site school event.

If a pupil is caught smoking, cigarettes and combustible materials are confiscated and parents are contacted; for a second offence, pupils may have an internal suspension or be sent home combined with a recommendation to visit to the Medical Centre to seek medical support & advice. Persistent offending may result in a pupil being excluded from school.

Author:	Headmaster
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