

The Sandon School



DRUGS POLICY

Last Adoption Date: March 2020

Next Review Date: Spring 2021

Drugs Policy

Introduction

1. This policy applies to students of The Sandon School (School) and links with:
 - The School's delivery of Personal, Social and Health Education
 - The Home-School Agreement
 - The Equality Policy (including Accessibility Plan and Public Sector Equality Duty)
 - The Safeguarding (including Child Protection) Policy
 - The Behaviour Policy
 - The Exclusion Policy
 - The Whistleblowing Policy
 - Smoke Free Policy
 - The Medical Policy
 - The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy
2. The whole School community aims to ensure that the School is free from illegal drugs and drug misuse. This policy applies to all places where the School is responsible for or may be regarded as responsible for its students. These places are regarded as part of the School. These are some examples: school trips, travel to and from School, when the School uniform is being worn, and conduct in the locality of the School.

General Statement and Definitions

3. The Sandon School considers that illegal drugs are all Controlled Drugs and also all Psychoactive Substances except
 - a. Controlled Drugs prescribed for a student and used by them as prescribed
 - b. Psychoactive Substances regarded as exempt by law such as caffeine
4. Our definition of drug misuse is: The taking of a substance, legal or illegal, which harms or threatens to harm the physical or mental health or social well-being of an individual or of other individuals, or society at large.
5. Within this definition can be placed a substance people use to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes the misuse of all illegal drugs and the misuse of all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco products, (this includes electronic cigarettes and vapourisers), volatile substances (such as aerosols, gases, glues and solvents) and also the misuse of all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
6. This policy seeks to ensure that students in our School receive common messages about the inappropriateness of drug misuse. It will ensure that drug-related incidents are addressed throughout our School in a consistent manner. The School urges parents to support this policy. Parent means anyone with parental responsibility including carers and adult students where appropriate.
7. The raising of every student's self-esteem is a fundamental aim of our School. It is rare for problem drug use to be isolated from other pastoral difficulties. In all cases our guiding principle will be that the welfare of the students of the School is paramount.

Statement of Policy

8. It is important that students, parents and staff understand that:
 - Drug misuse in any circumstances is inappropriate and unacceptable
 - The School regards the following as recreational drugs. alcohol, tobacco products including electronic cigarettes and vapourisers, and volatile substances such as aerosols, gases, glues and solvents. Students involved with recreational drugs, or what they believe to be recreational drugs, at the School will be disciplined. Unless it is in the best interest of the student, parents will be informed.
 - Anyone being involved or at the time believing they are involved directly or indirectly with illegal drugs at the School, bringing illegal drugs into the School or being in possession of illegal drugs at the School or producing, dealing in or in any way supplying or offering to supply illegal drugs at the School, will be reported to the police. This conduct is completely unacceptable to the School. The School will take its own disciplinary action against those involved as well as involving the police. Unless it is in the best interest of the student, parents will be informed. This conduct may lead to permanent exclusion
 - The School is at all times a “no smoking” establishment
 - The School tries to support anyone who voluntarily seeks help with drug related problems
 - Once the police are involved, and if a prosecution is to follow, the School will return to a supportive role, as well as considering its own disciplinary action
 - A main goal of the School will be to attempt to re-establish a working relationship with students disciplined for drug-related issues
9. The School’s response will be measured and balanced against the extent or nature of the incident taking into account guidance that shall from time to time be given by the Department for Education and also the Local Authority. As a guiding principle, anyone involved with illegal drugs or suspected illegal drugs at the School will be for a fixed term temporarily excluded from School whilst a thorough investigation is carried out. During, or immediately following this exclusion, the Headteacher will, by asking for reports on the student and on the incident in question, consider all the available evidence and decide on the most appropriate action.
10. **Any student whose behaviour seriously harms the education or welfare of that student or other people at the School will be permanently excluded.**
11. The School will ensure the proper training of staff and all others involved with the delivery of Drugs Education and the implementation of this Policy. The School may use outside agencies for these purposes.
12. See Appendix A for local/national organisations providing help and support for drug related issues.

Monitoring

13.
 - All known drug-related incidents will be recorded
 - No entry will be made on the student’s record until sufficient evidence has been gathered and corroborated to warrant this action
 - The School will follow up known drug related incidents

- The School, including the grounds, is regularly checked and a report made to the Headteacher of signs of recreational or illegal drugs and drug misuse.

Confidentiality

14. Whilst every effort should be made to enable constructive dialogue to take place between students requiring support and School staff, no staff member can agree to offer complete confidentiality. All staff are subject to safeguarding procedures.

Drug Awareness Programme

15. The School has a drug awareness programme that is delivered in the following ways:
 - Within appropriate curriculum areas, taking into account the students' current level of understanding
 - As part of the whole School Personal, Social and Health Education programme;
 - Using language appropriate to the students' age and readiness it will ensure that all students, regardless of background and ability, can equally access the programme of work
 - It will be relevant to the backgrounds and needs of our students and will focus on the drug use and surrounding issues most relevant to them

Dealing with an incident

16. When dealing with an incident staff should consider the appropriate action to take. The following order of priority should only be changed in exceptional circumstances:
 - Medical support: assess the situation and provide immediate first aid if required. In the case of an emergency send for appropriate medical help and/or ambulance
 - Ensure immediate safety and/or welfare support: if any student or person involved is "at immediate risk" from their own behaviour or the behaviour of others send for appropriate assistance and arrange for the isolation and supervision of all those involved. In sending for assistance ensure that the scale of the problem and/or number of people involved is communicated clearly
 - In taking temporary possession of illegal drugs, if possible ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout
 - If possible, seal the substance in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure and/or find the names of all those present. Arrange secure storage, eg in a safe or other lockable container, with access limited to senior members of staff
 - Inform a senior member of staff who should take responsibility for recording the incident and ensure signed statements are made by all those involved and/or present
 - If illegal drugs are suspected notify the police and seek their advice concerning the identification of the substance and its safe storage and/or disposal. Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances
 - The law does not require the School to divulge to the police the name of the person from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so. Where a

student (or other person) is identified the police will be required to follow set procedures

- Record full details of the incident, including notes of any discussion with the students and/or persons involved. These should include date, time and place and all those persons present and the police incident reference number;
- Inform parents unless this is not in the best interests of the student
- Identify any safeguarding issues and develop a support and disciplinary response in line with the School's safeguarding policies

17. If formal action is to be taken against a student by the police they will make arrangements for them to attend a local police station accompanied by an appropriate adult for interview. Only in exceptional circumstances should arrest or interviews take place at School. An appropriate adult should always be present during interviews, preferably a parent or duty social worker.

Searching Students and Confiscation

18. Please see the Behaviour Policy.
19. The law permits School staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all reasonable steps are then taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected illegal drugs, if possible, staff will ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout.
20. Students, staff and parents have been consulted on this Policy. This Policy will be well publicised. It was adopted using Chair's powers on 26 March 2020 and will be ratified formally by the Governing Board at the next Full Governors meeting.

APPENDIX A

Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

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

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Al-Anon Family Groups (including Alateen for those aged 12-17) offer support and understanding to the families and friends of problem drinkers.

Tel: 020 7593 2070

Helpline: 0800 0086 811

Website: www.al-anonuk.org.uk/

Alcohol Change UK works for a society that is free from the harm caused by alcohol.

Tel: 020 3907 8480

Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholchange.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 0207 404 0242

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.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.

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.

Tel 020 3174 2279

Email: info@crae.org.uk

Website: www.crae.org.uk

Children's Society – A charity that provides a hub of information, guidance and resources on parental drug and alcohol misuse, and the impact it has upon children and families.

Tel: 0300 030 7000

Website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimize alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900

Email: contact@drinkaware.co.uk

Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential national alcohol helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 121 1110

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. DrugWise also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

Essex Young Peoples Drug & Alcohol Service offers advice for children 18 or under who live in Essex providing a wide range of alcohol treatment & drug help for young people in Essex.

Tel: 01245 493311 or text CHOICES to 80800

Email: supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk

Website: <http://www.childrenssocietyeast.org.uk/eypdas>

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.

Tel: 0300 123 6600 24 Hour Helpline

Text: 82111

Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

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

Email: enquiries@ncb.org.uk

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: <http://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.

Tel: 01785 810762

Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree – NHS site providing advice on quitting smoking

Website: www.nhs.uk/smokefree

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.

Tel: 03330 138926 (Essex)

Email: tanya.gillet@essex.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/guidance/youth-offending-teams-south-east-england