



White Spire School Drugs & Misuse of Substances Policy



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1. KEY CONTACTS in school/setting

Name	Role	Contact details
Headteacher	Finlay Douglas	01908 373266
Chair of governing body	Neil Griffiths	01908 373266
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Michelle Bartle	01908 373266
Out of hours contact for DSL	Michelle Bartle	safeguarding@whitespire.milton-keynes.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Finlay Douglas	01908 373266
Other members of the safeguarding team (DSLs')	Sophie Lunnon Sally Seminerio Deena Turney Karen Richards	01908 373266
Prevent lead	Michelle Bartle	01908 373266
Child sexual exploitation lead	Michelle Bartle	01908 373266
Looked after/previously lead	Michelle Bartle	01908 373266
Mental health lead	Michelle Bartle	01908 373266
Chair of governing body	Neil Griffiths	01908 373266
Designated governor for safeguarding	Tanya Stevens	01908 373266
Designated governor for mental health and well being	Tanya Stevens	01908 373266
PSHCE Lead	Laura Halsey	01908 373266

2. Policies

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Child protection policy
- Behaviour for Learning policy
- KCSIE 2023

3. Introduction

The purpose of the school drug and misuse of substances policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school;
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and the whole school community;
- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors parents / carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved;
- give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme;
- enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved;
- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school and
- to reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

The Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (Sept 2012). The policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school. This Drugs and Misuse of Substances Policy works with, and alongside, our PHSCE, SRE, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour for Learning, CSE/CCE, Mental Health and Well Being Policy and Child Protection policies.

4. Definition

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

Drugs used to refer to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971/2001);
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

5. Aims & Objectives of Substance Misuse Education

- The school condones neither the misuse of illegal substances, nor legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and prescribed or over the counter medication.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.
- The school acknowledges its role in educating pupils to safeguard against the misuse of illegal and legal substances.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level (DFE and ACPO drug advice for schools (Sept 2012)), we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of substance use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, educating pupils throughout the school's curriculum.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents/carers and governors by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is seen as important to recognise that large numbers of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We will continue to support their differing needs.

6. Staff Responsibilities and Training

All staff have a responsibility in supporting and teaching pupils about drugs and their effects. Staff are provided with training and up to date resources to support the current trends within drug taking. It is the Head of PSHCE responsibility to provide staff with guidance of drug related education. Designated Safeguarding Leads and Heads of Key Stage have a key role in supporting pupils with drug related incidences.

7. Management of drug-related incidents related incidents

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs; • students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher will be informed of the situation immediately.
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) soon as possible in order to determine the facts.
- The Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher/DSL will inform, consult and involve others as necessary.
- Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where the individual refuses, the behaviour for learning policy will be followed. Further information on Searching and Confiscating (Searching, screening and confiscation Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, 2022) will be found in this policy.
- It is important to note that intimate searches will NOT be carried out at White Spire School. If there is further concerns, the school will notify the parents/carers/police/MASH where suitable for further support. The school will carefully consider safeguarding and whether it would be in the best interest of the pupil.
- After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in an envelope with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the secure cupboard.
- If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- A detailed record of the incident will be made via C-POMS.
- The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

8. Responses to drug related incidents

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. The school will follow its behaviour for Learning policy and Child Protection policy in such cases.

9. Confidentiality

At White Spire School, all staff are aware that they must not promise to keep 'secrets' with pupils and that if concern is disclosed, this must be passed on to the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher/DSL soon as possible.

Staff should make a record of the information on the schools C-POMS system. Any original notes should be handed to the DSL to be stored securely. All students are offered sensitive and appropriate support as needed and are encouraged to talk to their parents and carers and supported to do so. If there is any possibility that a child may be at risk or putting others at risk, the school's Child Protection procedures are followed.

10. Early Intervention and Targeted Prevention

In addition to the above, we at White Spire school work with COMPASS/local safeguarding partners to provide early intervention programmes and /or targeted prevention strategies for identified groups of young people.

The school will endeavour to identify pupils who have drug related needs. The process of identifying needs will aim to distinguish those who require additional information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a more detailed assessment of their needs.

11: Appendix 1: Useful Organisations

Addaction is the UK's leading mental health, drug and alcohol charities.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

COMPASS works in communities across the UK to provide professional, confidential and supportive health and wellbeing services for adults and children and young people.

<http://www.compass-uk.org/>

FRANK is a friendly, confidential drugs advice service <https://www.talktofrank.com/>

SMOKEFREE- NHS advice service <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Drinkaware- is an independent charity working to reduce alcohol misuse and harm in the UK.

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>