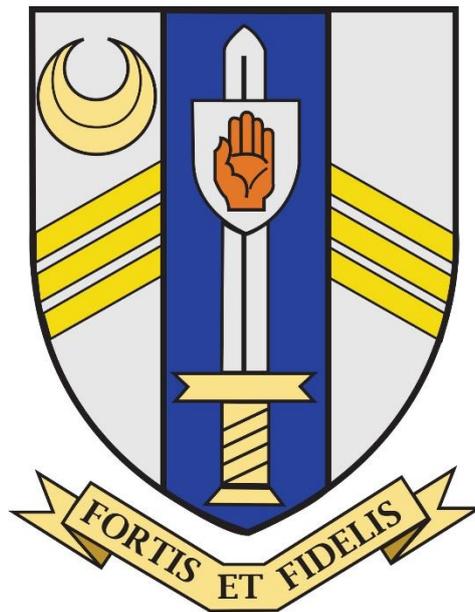


# Sir John Nelthorpe School



## Drugs Education Policy (incl substance abuse)

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Consultations/Training	Learning Co-ordinators & Tutors

# Drugs Education Policy (incl substance abuse)

## POLICY STATEMENT

### General Statement

The aim of the Drugs Education Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.

The policy ensures that a whole school approach on the issue of drugs is part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education. Students, who may be affected either directly or indirectly by drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug related incidents. Sanctions for incidents may be consistent with the school's Behaviour Rewards and Sanctions policy.

### Definition

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

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

The word 'drug' is used to include all mood-altering substances. Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and legal highs. In addition over the counter, prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs and other substances such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, solvents and 'poppers' (etc).

The possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is illegal. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be used, bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when students are on school visits. These rules also apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for students who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

### Drugs Education

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHCE lessons that reflect knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles

- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding of the effects of substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- seek to minimise the risks that young people face
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Form Tutors teach about an awareness of the dangers of drugs, both legal and illegal drugs. In KS4 this topic is examined in more depth. Outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school drug policy. Teachers have access to ongoing support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively cooperates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

### **Statutory Duty of School**

The headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governors, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The Assistant Head (Learning) is in charge of PSHCE and will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

### **Implementation**

In instances involving substance possession, misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know students well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the headteacher. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to possessing, using or supplying substances off the premises, this should be brought to the attention of the headteacher who may consider it appropriate to inform the parents.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, although they may be able to give relevant support and advice.

The Governors will be involved in drug education and drug related incidents in the same manner as any other matter.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other school

members and the local community. However, possession of a substance, using a substance, buying or selling a substance, are all incidents, which if undertaken on the school premises, will normally result in an exclusion of some nature. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken. In the case of buying or selling for monetary gain, it may, in the Head Teacher's judgement, be appropriate to permanently exclude for a first offence.

Action to be taken when possession of drugs is suspected:

If a member of staff suspects that a child is in possession of drugs he/she should inform the safeguarding team via CPOMs and in person where possible. A member of the safeguarding team will:

Ask the student to surrender the suspect substance.\*

Place the substance in a sealed bag and write the following on the label:

Name of student  
Date & time  
Name of staff member & signature  
Passed to (name)  
Date & time passed on

This bag must be kept in a secure, locked place until it can be handed to the school office.

When received by a member of the office staff receipt should be logged in the designated book and the substance placed in a locked drawer or the safe.

The headteacher (or delegated representative) will decide upon an appropriate course of action. This may include informing parents, police and/or destruction of the substance. When a substance is destroyed this must be carried out in the presence of a responsible adult witness.

\*a) If a student refuses to surrender the suspect substance the member of staff should summon an additional member of staff, preferably ensuring a gender balance. The student will be escorted to a secure place where further action, including summoning parents and/or police, taking statements and/or conducting a search may take place.

\*b) Where a hypodermic needle is involved extra care must be taken when handling the item which should be placed in the 'sharps' bin as soon as possible.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the LA Policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and can generate interest from the local and/or national media and members of the community. The school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

### **Relationships with other School Policies**

Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy  
Exclusion Policy  
SMSC Policy

### **Monitoring and review**

All Policies are reviewed on an annual basis by the School Governors.  
Senior Member of Staff Responsible: Assistant Head (Learning)

The Head Teacher will ensure all incidents involving the misuse of Drugs on the school site are dealt with in line with the school policy.

Assistant Head (Learning) who line manages PSHCE education will:

- monitor the effectiveness of teaching
- review the curriculum and teaching materials regularly
- involve external agency support when appropriate.