



**CORE**  
EDUCATION  
TRUST

## Drugs Policy

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## 1. Introduction

CORE Education Trust is committed to the health and safety of all its staff and students. The Trust does not condone the use, misuse, possession or supply of drugs.

We believe it is our duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use. Health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social development of every student. Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times.

While we accept that the welfare of the student is paramount at all times, we also believe that serious sanctions must be involved in order to protect the members of our school community.

The term "drug" includes (this list is not exhaustive):

- Any prescribed medication used by anyone it is **not prescribed to**.
- Amphetamines (Speed).
- Alcohol.
- Anabolic Steroids.
- Cannabis (Large variety of slang names).
- Cocaine/Crack.
- Cigarettes (Tobacco).
- DMT.
- GHB.
- Herbal Highs.
- LSD (Acid).
- MDMA (Ecstasy).
- Methadone.
- Nitrates (Poppers).
- Opiates (Heroin).
- Psilocybin (Magic Mushrooms).
- Solvents (Gas, Glue, Volatile Substances).
- Tranquillizers.
- Qat.
- 2CB.
- E-cigarettes.
- Legal high classed substances.

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

- **Headteacher** – overall responsibility and the final word if exclusion is considered.
- **Members of the SLT as directed by the Headteacher** – involvement in any drugs related incidents.
- **Inclusion/pastoral team** – support for the students involved.
- **All Staff** – diligence, reporting suspicions, behaviour different from the normal behaviour.

### 3. Aims of the policy

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse.

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practicing skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

### 4. Procedure for dealing with an incident.

- If a student is known to have taken, be taking or has supplied substances on the premises the Headteacher must be informed immediately. If the Headteacher is unavailable, then Deputy Head must be called.
- The Headteacher or a member of SLT will remove the student from their lesson.
- In the case of a substance other than an illegal drug the Headteacher, or directed member of SLT will consult the relevant pastoral leader as appropriate, parent(s)/carer(s) will be contacted and asked to come and take the student home. Consideration will then be given as to the most appropriate sanction beyond initial exclusion on the day.
- In the event of a suspected illegal substance:
  - The Headteacher or Senior Leader with responsibility for Inclusion will speak to the student, considering their behaviour and answers to questions.
  - If necessary, ask the student to empty their pockets or search their bags.
  - If necessary, contact parent(s)/carer(s) and ask them to take the student home, lock any substance discovered in the school safe.
- In the event of possession of an illegal substance, the Headteacher or directed member of SLT should:
  - Talk to the student, question about origin etc.
  - Lock the substance in the school safe.
  - Contact parent(s)/carer(s), students to go home.
- Confidentiality  
Students who offer information must be supported and protected. However, we cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality and we must not offer this to any student.
- Police

While the school does not wish to unnecessarily criminalise students, it will inform the police of incidents involving illegal substances (and/or 'legal highs' where appropriate). This may be beneficial in signposting/accessing support for the individual, informing the police on local trends and provide advice to the school on the disposal of substances.

- For all cases internal behaviour incident records must be made and flagged as drugs related.

## 5. Sanctions

- The school recognises the need to offer support as well as a sanction as appropriate.
- A personalised support package for any individual involved in a drugs related incident will be drawn up by the school. This may include internal mentoring, signposting to external agencies and/referral to support services.
- Any sanction will be considered within the context of the school community's safety and duty of care and the welfare of the individuals involved.
- Possession of banned items in school is likely to result in a fixed term exclusion. This would include alcohol possession and/or use.
- For possessing or using illegal drugs. The school believes that a hard line must be taken to protect the community. Students will receive a fixed period of exclusion. The school reserves the right to use and will seriously consider permanent exclusion (see Positive Behaviour Policy).
- For supplying/dealing illegal drugs the Headteacher will permanently exclude.

## 6. Training

On a regular basis a training sessions and briefings will be held for all staff.

## 7. Drugs education

Within the school there are resources and guidance related to drugs for staff to include in the delivery of lessons and schemes of work which support students' education related to drugs. The school whenever possible works with outside agencies in support of drugs related education within the school.

## 8. Local trends

These are strategically discussed in local and citywide network meeting with other schools. Where a local school's police panel is in operation, the school will be a member.

## 9. Physical searches

These may be actioned if there is a suspicion that a student has a banned substance, drug or object in their possession. All searches are concluded in the presence of a senior leader with an additional member of staff of the same gender as the student.

## 10. Confiscations

Senior staff have the authority to confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property where reasonable to do so. This is completed in line with the [DfE Guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#).

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The Headteacher will ensure its effectiveness is monitored.