



The Ecclesbourne School

“Learning together for the future”

DRUGS POLICY

January 2022

1. Purpose and scope

This policy has been developed in conjunction with Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, Derbyshire Constabulary, The Behaviour Support Service and CGL ‘Derbyshire Young People’s drug and alcohol service.

The guidance is also used in conjunction with the following pieces of guidance;

- Drug: advice for schools 2012
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021
- Search, Screening and confiscation 2018
- Relationship and Sexual Health Education and Health Education 20211
- Child Centred Policing- When to call the police – Guidance for schools and colleges 2020

When working with this policy reference must also be made to;

- Behaviour Management and Discipline Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- First Aid Policy
- External Contributors Policy

This policy encompasses three sections;

1. The context and whole school approach
2. Drug Education
3. Responding to and managing a drug related incident

A child as stated in this guidance is up until 18 years of age.

2. Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol & tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter & prescription medicines.

3. Aim

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential side effects. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects. It is important to remember most students will NOT use drugs and that the challenges that schools face are due to drug and alcohol issues that are found in the communities their students are growing up in.

To combat the drug related gossip, rumours and myths that circulate, Derbyshire has established a **Drug Alert Group** for professionals across Derbyshire. The Drug Alert Group provides a two-way process in which schools via their

Designated Safeguarding Lead can pass on new drug names, alleged trends, emerging drug use etc and receive alerts that clarify facts, dispel myths and challenge 'fake news'.

4. Key principles

- To maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff.
- A coordinated and consistent approach for drugs education and the management of drug related incidents.
- Integration of a drugs education programme into the Science and Personal Development and Citizenship curriculum (PDC).
- A drugs education programme which is appropriate to the needs and maturities of students, which reflects students' local circumstances, current knowledge and attitudes towards drugs.
- The involvement of the whole school community, including staff, governors, parents, students and relevant outside agencies to support the drugs education programme.
- Encouraging and enabling relevant training and support for staff.
- Regular monitoring, periodic review and evaluation of policies and programmes.

5. Vulnerable students

We at The Ecclesbourne School are aware that some students are more vulnerable to drug related incidents and other social problems than others. Therefore additional support and monitoring is given to students that are seen as at risk from substance misuse. This includes adapting the curriculum take into account their level of understanding and needs or using the support staff to facilitate the information as they have a holistic understanding of the needs of the student. Students that are identified as been vulnerable are;

- Children in Care;
- Children excluded from School;
- Child Criminal Exploitation;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Children missing from school on a regular basis;
- Children involved in the Youth Justice System for Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Children that have a learning disability or developmental delay;
- Children that have a family member known to misuse substances;
- Children that are homeless.

6. Parents and Carers

Parents/carers have an important role in preventing children and young people becoming involved in problematic drug and alcohol use. Regular dialogue between parents/carers will allow open communication where a child is able to ask questions and express their concerns where the needs should arise.

Protective factors such as; growing up where there are strong family bonds; where families have clear family rules; strong parental monitoring and open discussions all support students to make healthier life choices.

Parents and carers are also key to enabling young people transfer their school experience of drug and alcohol education into the world they are growing up in. As a school we encourage parents and carers to engage with their child's drug education wherever possible and to support this we hold information evenings to provide parents with the information and tools to support their child.

There are parents who use drugs and abuse alcohol and this may impact on the child's health, safety and wellbeing. We as a school are familiar with the Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Childrens procedures and the relevant section on parents misusing substances. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take appropriate action if a parents' substance misuse is impacting on the child and is placing the child at risk of significant harm.

If a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school premises the school will ask the parent to leave. The school can contact the police if the situation becomes difficult to manage and the parent refuses to leave the premises.

If a parent/carer comes to collect a child and it is believed they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the Headteacher and DSL should be notified. The safety of the child should be assessed. In situations where the child may be at risk of harm and the school is not able to prevent the child leaving with the parent/carer, they should contact the police. If the school believe parental substance misuse is putting the child at risk of significant harm the school must follow local Safeguarding Procedures. If there are concerns that there is a medical situation then a member of First Aid will be called to assess the situation and if need be an ambulance will be called and further medical assistance sought.

7. Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Derbyshire County Council. We have a specific policy that addresses this and should be referred to.

Alcohol

The consumption of alcohol by students is not permitted on the school premises as explained in our Behaviour and Discipline Policy. This includes school trips and residential visits.

Smoking

The school is a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring into school smoking materials, including matches, lighters and e-cigarettes (vapes). In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated, parents informed and the material disposed of. The school will also use the Behaviour and Discipline Policy to take the necessary actions and uphold the values of The Ecclesbourne School.

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought onto or used on school premises. If a student was to do so then the Behaviour Policy would be brought into use. This could result in serious consequences for the child which could include permanent exclusion.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of any solvents.

8. Drugs education within the curriculum

We at The Ecclesbourne School, feel that prevention is the key to reduce potential drug related incidents in school. To this end we use education as a vehicle to give students the knowledge and tools, to have greater information to make informed choices. Students are also informed of the consequences if they were to breach the Behaviour and Discipline Policy through regular assemblies and the PDC program.

Research have shown that the following methods work in educating young people about alcohol and drugs;

- A whole school approach
- Consistent, long-term implementaiton through re-visiting ideas and scaffolding learning
- Interactive Learning where students are able to engage in discussion
- Peer-to-Peer Learning
- Approaches that help students solve problems in dififcult or emotionally charged situations
- Address anxiety, hopelessness, impulsivity and attention/ sensation seeking behaviour which can heighten the potential choices students make

- Goes beyond the school gates and engages with students' families and communities so that we as a school are aware of what is happening within the community and can be pro-active to this

What does not work is scare tactics and fear based approaches. Therefore school builds on what works whilst ensuring we move away from approaches that do not. We will continue to review and implement changes to the curriculum based on parent/pupil feedback, trends that are appearing (both in school, locally and nationally) and resources by external agencies.

Our drugs education programme is created by our Head of Personal Development and Citizenship and Designated Safeguarding Lead drawing on specialist knowledge and advice from external agencies. The school has now become part of the Coriell Drug and Alcohol Education Award for Derbyshire and we use their advice to help plan our program of study. We also work closely with Think for the Future to ensure our programs of study are relevant and age appropriate. Our drugs education curriculum begins by ascertaining students' existing knowledge and building on this, in terms of further knowledge and understanding. The resources produced are either delivered by our form tutors or school offices depending upon the nature of the topic. The information is as accurate and up-to-date as possible and includes information on legal and illegal drugs, effects, benefits and risks. School also make use of external agencies to deliver up-to-date and age appropriate sessions to students, staff and parents. Student voice is encouraged, listened to and acted upon and yearly assessment of our drug education program is carried out by the Head of PDC, The Designated Safeguarding Lead, Student Council and Coriell.

9. Responses to drug related incidents

There are complex challenges involved in responding to a drug related incident in a school, as there are often a number of variables involved, such as the type of drug used, the immediate safety of the child, the impact to those children that may have witnessed any actions, whether a child has taken drugs or supplied drugs and previous incidences that may have occurred.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must firstly prioritise the safety of the child and those around them. If necessary, the situation should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support, and in some cases an ambulance may need to be called. It is a priority that the parents are contacted immediately if there is a medical emergency so that they support their child in receiving medical treatment. The Police may be contacted if the child or other child are deemed to be at risk. We will use the 'when to contact the police' guidance to help the school make this decision. The local agreement between Derbyshire Constabulary and other local partners in providing schools with the following guidance to enable them to respond to drug related incidents with confidence.

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

The role of the Head teacher/DSL

If a drug related incident occurs the head teacher/DSL will undertake an initial inquiry. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence offers the following guidance when talking to the child:

- what was taken;
- how often;
- and in what context.

To enable the head teacher/DSL to make enquiries around an incident they may wish to consider the following:

- How has the student come into possession of the substance?

- From whom?
- How long have they been using the substance?
- What do they believe the drug to be?
- What support does the student or family need from school and/or local agencies?
- Is the pupil willing to cooperate and work with the investigation?

When conducting an enquiry, the Head teacher/DSL will find the Childrens Society, Victim Support and National Police Chiefs Council Guidance entitled '**Appropriate Language: Child sexual and/or criminal Exploitation Guidance for Professionals' a valuable guide**'. It suggests the document should be used by professionals when discussing the exploitation of children and young people, including responding to drug related incidents in school.

The head teacher/DSL should consider informing the parents/carers to keep them informed, involved and supported throughout the process at the earliest opportunity. Where the school suspects that to do so might put the child's safety at risk, or there are other concerns, the schools local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Taking temporary possession of suspected illegal drugs

If we have to take temporary possession of a suspected controlled drug or a substance that we believe to be harmful we will;

- Adhere to Health and Safety guidelines in all cases
- Ensure a witness (a member of staff) is present throughout
- Seal the substance in a plastic bag with the date and time of the seizure with the names of those present
- Store in a secure storage such as safe or a lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff
- Contact the police for collection. Whilst disposal or destruction is legal it should always be policy to hand the items to the police to ensure correct identification.
- Involve the parents/carers unless this would put the pupil at risk or there are concerns

Arresting a pupil on school premises

There is local agreement in Derbyshire that the police will only consider arresting a student in school for serious offences and wherever possible will work in liaison with school staff. Whilst we know the police have the powers to arrest young people committing offences on the school premises this will be a last resort. It is recognised by all partners that The Ecclesbourne school must whenever possible, remain a safe place for students to learn and achieve. The potential impact on the whole school of an onsite arrest can affect hundreds of pupils, raise the anxieties of parents/carers and members of the wider community the school serves, therefore whenever possible arrests of pupils on school premises will be avoided.

Drugs operation conducted in schools

In the extremely unlikely event a drug operation is being considered we will treat this as a significant incident and refer to the Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership 'Critical Incident Management Protocol, 2020'.

We are aware that no operation should be conducted without the authority of the Chief Inspector of the Division who must have consulted with the Public Protection Unit. We will also notify Derbyshire County Councils Media Desk.

There will be a planned and a coordinated response to the operation. The school will have to consider the wider implications and the needs of students directly and indirectly involved in the operation.

Any police operation within a school is also likely to attract huge press interest and will affect all students. The school will consider the impact to the child and the immediate family also when we decide how much information we will share with the media. All media communication will be undertaken by the Head teacher only.

Students that have been caught up in the drug operation should be provided with support using named and trusted external agencies.

Searches

Searching can be a useful tool in risk management of an individual student where there is suspicion of or an actual incident of drug use or supply. We can undertake searches under certain circumstances, and we will refer to and adhere to the latest DfE guidelines: Search, Screening and confiscation, 2018. We recommend in these instances that two members of staff conduct the search and an incident form should be completed and placed in the student file.

Responses

We will look at each case individually and respond proportionately in response to the findings of an enquiry of drug taking, supply and/or distribution. The police and other agencies who may be already involved will be contacted to provide guidance to the school.

We will need to consider a range of responses, and this is made clear in our Behaviour and Discipline Policy dependent on the activity and the circumstances around it.

We are aware that students involved in drug use and/or dealing drugs can often be being exploited and are incredibly vulnerable. To ensure the safety of all children we will always consider using the CRE Tool Kit to gain a clear insight into potential exploration. Named members of staff are trained to conduct the toolkit and will do when requested. Exclusion is last resort and only applied where justified and where we will feel not to do so will put the safety of other children at risk.

When considering our response, we will consider:

- Counselling;
- Behaviour support;
- CGL drug/alcohol programmes; (Derbyshire Named Service)
- Pastoral support;
- CRE Tool Kit;
- Targeted prevention.

Recording

At all stages of responding to a drug or alcohol related incident the Head teacher/DSL and all staff involved should clearly record all decisions, actions and outcomes. The records should be counter signed by the Head teacher and dated. These records should be treated as a Child Protection Record and will be recorded on My Concern.

Alcohol

Alcohol is a prohibited item on the school premises and destroyed, poured away, if student is found to be in possession of it. This should be witnessed by a second member of staff and clearly recorded in the child's record.

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving alcohol or cigarettes, but we may wish to inform trading standards or the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area. There is also a recommendation to contact the Early Help Team so they can support and inform share with other schools.

If a child makes a disclosure regarding drug use

if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. Following the disclosure, the parents/carers are always informed unless it is deemed that it will put the student at risk. Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student, though information sharing will only be conducted in a supportive manner and on a need-to-know basis. Action will be taken at the very earliest opportunity to ensure the student comes to no serious harm. Following disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Police involvement

The School recognises that a key relationship is the one between the school and the Community Safety Officer and Belper Police Projects (Drugs) Team. If the relationship between the school and the Community Safety Officer is open and frank, then appropriate decisions are more likely to be taken. In a situation where a person from outside the school is dealing either on, or in the vicinity of the premises, then Belper Police Projects (Drugs) Team should be contacted as soon as possible.

Finally, although the school is not legally obliged to inform the police of drug use incidents, it is our wish to work closely with the police in the best interest of our students and the wider community. For example if a child discloses that they have taken a drug outside of school, they need support rather than criminalisation.

Support Agencies

SupportLine

Telephone Helpline: 01708 765200

email info@supportline.org.uk

Provides emotional support and keeps details of local agencies providing help and support for all issues relating to Drugs.

Action on Addiction:

0300 330 0659

www.actiononaddiction.org.uk

Range of abstinence based treatment services for people with severe dependency on alcohol and drugs. Residential care, day treatment, outpatient counselling and community services. Projects in SW London and Liverpool areas. (reg.charity)

Blenheim CDP (now part of Humankind)

020 7582 2200

www.blenheimcdp.org.uk

Leading substance misuse charity working across London to reduce the harm by drug misuse to individuals and the public.

City Roads Crisis Intervention: 020 7278 8671

24hr telephone service UK wide and emergency residential care for drug users in crisis. *Please note the service is for drug users in crisis only.*

DrugFam

DrugFam offers phone and email support to people affected by other people's drug or alcohol misuse.

Email office@drugfam.co.uk or phone the helpline on 0300 888 3853

Families Anonymous:

0845 120 0660

www.famanon.org.uk

Telephone and other support services for families and friends of drug users. 50 groups throughout the UK offering help and support to members based on the 12 step programme.

Frank:

0300 123 6600

www.talktofrank.com

Helpline for anyone concerned about drug or solvent misuse. Advice and information for drug misusers, their families, friends, carers. *(Formerly known as the National Drugs Helpline).*

Phoenix Futures:

Central Office 020 7234 9740

Charity which has been helping people overcome drug and alcohol problems for more than 40 years.

UK Narcotics Anonymous :

0300 999 1212, www.ukna.org - Helpline and regular self help meetings for addicts who have a desire to stop using and who wish to support each other in remaining drug free.

Release:

020 7324 2989

www.release.org.uk

Helpline and support for drug users, families, friends. Advice on drug related subjects including health, welfare and legal issues. Referrals to lawyers and local drug services.

Re-Solv Enquiries:

Helpline: 01785 810762

www.re-solv.org

Helpline providing information and support for people concerned about solvent or volatile substance abuse problems.

Salvation Army:

020 7367 4500

www.salvationarmy.org.uk

Runs homes for the treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts.

Turning Point:

020 7481 7600

www.turning-point.co.uk

To enable people with serious problems related to drug and alcohol misuse, mental health and learning disabilities to lead more independent lives by providing high quality community services. Run over 200 projects and schemes nationally ranging from residential rehabilitation centres to drop in counselling services, needle exchanges, phone advice services and individual community workers.

Useful websites**www.addaction.org.uk**

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.alcoholconcern.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

www.ash.org.uk ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)

A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

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. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

www.drinkaware.co.uk

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

www.drugscope.org.uk

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. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

www.lukeandmarcustrust.org.uk

For anyone fighting drug or addiction problems within their family or circle of friends and needs help, information, or just a shoulder to cry on.

www.mentoruk.org.uk

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Appendix B A Flow-Chart for Dealing With Drug Related Incidents in School:

