



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

Learning Together for the Future

DRUGS POLICY

December 2024

This is a non-statutory policy. This is ratified
by the Student and Curriculum Sub-Committee

1.Statement of Intent

The Ecclesbourne School is committed to keeping pupils safe from drugs and alcohol, both on our premises and in the wider community. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol. It outlines the school's approach to supporting pupils struggling with drugs and alcohol misuse.

The school maintains the view that alcohol and drug use on school premises is entirely unacceptable; however, we recognise that zero-tolerance policies have a disproportionately negative impact on some pupils, e.g. victims of child criminal exploitation (CCE). For this reason, we aim to foster an approach of supportive discipline, whereby pupils who are facing issues with drugs and alcohol are aided through both internal and external support, as well as disciplinary measures where appropriate, to make more healthy and positive choices and to reframe their attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.

For the purposes of this policy, a **“drug”** is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes but is not limited to:

- All illegal substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs

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

2.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.

3.Updated Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014

- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- DfE (2012) 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'
- DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Physical Intervention Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that effective policies and procedures are in place to make sure that pupils are kept safe from alcohol and drugs at school.
- Ensuring that this policy is maintained and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with alcohol and/or drugs can access the support they need.
- Working with the headteacher, and in liaison with staff, parents, pupils, health and other professionals, to ensure that the relevant curricula, e.g. RSE and PDC addresses the needs of pupils and the local community, and reflects current trends.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- The day-to-day management of this policy.
- Working with governors to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Informing the governing board of any issues and developments concerning drugs and alcohol.
- Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs and alcohol.
- Informing parents of any drug- and alcohol-related incidents concerning their child, where appropriate and where doing so will not place the child at risk.
- Inviting the local police and drugs team into school to raise awareness of the risks and issues associated with drugs.
- Informing the police of any drug- or alcohol-related decision, where they deem it appropriate to do so.
- Ensuring a consistent approach to managing drug and alcohol incidents.

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff have the skills to teach and discuss issues relating to drugs and alcohol.

- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs and alcohol education.
- Accessing appropriate training to enable them to successfully advise the school on drug and alcohol matters.
- Liaising with local services as necessary to provide support for pupils.
- Assisting with the monitoring and review of this policy.

Staff will be responsible for:

- Attending scheduled training concerning drugs and alcohol, including how to spot the signs and symptoms of use and dependency, identifying paraphernalia, and how to respond to a drug related incident.
- Reporting concerns regarding pupils' use of drugs and alcohol to the DSL.

The site manager will be responsible for:

- Regularly checking the school premises for signs of drug and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the DSL.
- Adhering to the Health and Safety Policy when handling needles found on school premises.

Pupils will be responsible for:

- Ensuring they do not bring illegal or prohibited drugs or alcohol onto school premises or whilst engaged in any off-site activity representing the school.
- Ensuring they do not take drugs or consume alcohol whilst travelling to or from school.
- Contributing to the development of this policy by providing feedback on the effectiveness of the drugs and alcohol education provided, and on how incidents are managed.

5. Staff Training

The school recognises that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff will receive child protection and safeguarding training in identifying the signs that a pupil may be at risk, experiencing harm or is struggling upon induction and this will be refreshed [annually](#). Staff will also receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

All staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves, or is in a family circumstance presenting challenges that includes drug and alcohol misuse.

6. The Curriculum

All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the PDC curriculum, in line with the Relationships, and Sex Education (RSE) Policy.

Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the pupils and will be differentiated according to individual learning styles.

Information about drugs and alcohol will feature regularly as part of pastoral education in the form of classes and assemblies. Where appropriate, expert visitors and external speakers will be sought to provide classes on drug and alcohol misuse.

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

- A whole school approach
- Consistent, long-term implementation 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 difficult 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

7.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.

8.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 Children's procedures and the relevant section on parents misusing substances. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take appropriate action if a parent's 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 believes 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 needed an ambulance will be called and further medical assistance sought.

9. 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 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.

10. Pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol;

10.1 Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be escorted to the headteacher's office, where they will be assessed.

The school will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the pupil's parent – parents will generally be informed unless the school feels there is a safeguarding concern which means that telling the pupil's parent may put them at risk. Where the school determines parents should be notified, they will be contacted and asked to remove the pupil from the premises. The pupil will remain in the headteacher's office until their parent arrives.

10.2 In drug- or alcohol-related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned and care will be provided in line with our First Aid Policy. An ambulance will be called immediately if the casualty is seriously ill or it is believed their life is at risk. A staff member will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives. Other pupils will be removed from the immediate area as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made as to whether an ambulance will be called if the emergency services have not already been contacted. The pupil's parent will be telephoned and told about the incident.

If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed and social services will be contacted.

All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported to the HSE as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.

11. Threatening behaviour

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by pupils under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously. Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, the school will contact the police where necessary. Any pupil displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises. If a pupil displays this kind of behaviour, their parents will be contacted, and sanctions will be implemented in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

12. Searching

Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the headteacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette papers, illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the pupil, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. Staff members may use common law to search pupils for any item with their consent.

A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item under legislation or school rules. This includes "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified. Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search.

All searches will be conducted in line with the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, and the Physical Intervention Policy where physical contact with a pupil is required.

13. Controlled Substances

Where the school is unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it will be treated as a controlled substance. Where a legal drug is identified, the school will consider if it is appropriate to inform trading standards or the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of such substances to pupils in the area.

Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation or find alongside the name of any witness(es) present. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location with access limited to senior staff.

The school is not legally required to give the name of a pupil from whom drugs have been taken to the police. The school will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether it is appropriate under the pupil's specific circumstances to do so. All decisions will be taken with the best interests of the pupil(s) involved in mind. Generally, names will not be given to the police where the school cannot be certain beyond reasonable doubt that the pupil in question was the one in possession of the drugs.

A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the headteacher. Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, the parents of the pupil, as well as local police, will be notified.

14. Safeguarding

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.

Staff members will be aware of the fact that alcohol and drug misuse can be an indicator of a safeguarding concern and is often an indicator of both child criminal and sexual exploitation.

All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put pupils in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing drugs or alcohol, or where it is observed or suspected that their parents or family members misuse drugs.

Pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

15. Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs

or wants and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or threats of violence. CCE can include children being coerced into moving, storing and selling drugs across the country (known as county lines).

Staff will be aware of the indicators that may suggest a pupil is being criminally exploited through involvement in county lines, including where pupils:

- Have gone missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their harm.
- Have been a victim or perpetrator of serious violence, e.g. knife crime.
- Have been involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs.
- Are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection.
- Are found in accommodation that they have no connection with.
- Owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters.
- Have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

Staff will be made aware of the following potential indicators of CCE for pupils:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education

Staff members will be aware that illegal drug use or possession by pupils may indicate that they are victims of exploitation, even if it appears that illegal activity regarding drugs is something to which they have consented. The DSL will use their professional judgement to consider CCE as an explanation for a pupil's drug-related behaviour before pursuing other support and disciplinary procedures, rather than making assumptions about the pupil's intentions.

Staff will be alert to the indicators above and all concerns relating to CCE will be managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

16.Managing incidents

Instances of pupils being involved in drug and/or alcohol incidents will be managed in line with the relevant school policies, including the Behaviour Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and the Mental Health Policy.

Following an incident, the headteacher will work with key members of staff, including the DSL, to assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and decide on the most appropriate course of action to take. Referrals will be considered to local youth, family or health services, and voluntary organisations, to provide support.

The headteacher will also be responsible for deciding if it would be appropriate to suspend or exclude the pupil, following the provisions outlined in the school's Exclusion Policy; however, every effort will be taken to support pupils to adopt more healthy behaviours and choices before resorting

to suspension or exclusion. Suspension or exclusion will be avoided wherever possible for pupils whose parents or carers are known to the school to misuse alcohol and drugs.

Support will be arranged for pupils involved in any alcohol- or drug-related incidents, in line with relevant school policies.

Appendix A

Unauthorised drug use reporting form

Guidance on completing this form:

- Do not identify the pupil involved
- Copy the form once completed
- Send a copy of the form to the headteacher within 24 hours of the incident taking place
- Record the pupil's name and form on the original form and store it securely in [location](#)

What type of incident are you reporting? (Tick as appropriate)

Pupil in possession of unauthorised drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drug paraphernalia found on school premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil supplying unauthorised drugs on school premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disclosure of parental drug misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil disclosure of drug use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent expressing concern over potential drug misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency intoxication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Incident occurring outside school premises	<input type="checkbox"/>

General details		Pupil information	
Date of incident:		Form:	
Time of incident:			
Has the pupil been involved in previous incidents?		Age:	
Incident details			
Drug(s) involved (if known):			
Staff involved:			
Details of incident:			
Has any further action been taken (e.g. contacting the police, pupils and staff informed, other agencies involved)?			
Police incident reference number (if applicable)			
First aid details			
Was first aid given?			

If yes, who gave the first aid?	
Was an ambulance or doctor called?	
Who called them?	
What time were they called?	
Drug details	
Were any drugs found/removed?	
Where were they found/seized?	
Name of witness:	
Signature of witness:	
Disposal arrangements:	
Police incident number (where applicable):	
Parental details	
Were parents informed?	
Reason for deciding not to inform parents, where applicable:	
Name of parent informed, where applicable:	
Who informed them of the incident?	
At what time were they informed?	
Administrative details	
Form completed by:	
Job role:	
Signature:	
Follow-up action taken	

Appendix B

KEY CONTACTS	
SupportLine 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 0300 888 3853 Email office@drugfam.co.uk	DrugFam offers phone and email support to people affected by other people's drug or alcohol misuse.
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 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.wearewithyou.org.uk	We Are With You 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.
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 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk	ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.
www.childrenslegalcentre.com 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.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.
http://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 C A Flow-Chart for Dealing With Drug Related Incidents in School:

