



**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**

Learning Together for the Future

## **Drugs Policy**

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**May 2026**

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

## **1. Introduction and Purpose**

This policy outlines our school's approach to drug and alcohol education, prevention, and incident management for pupils aged 11–18. It aligns with Derbyshire guidance, DfE RSHE Statutory Guidance (July 2025), Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025(KCSIE), NPCC guidance on police involvement, and DfE Searching, Screening & Confiscation.

The purpose of our policy is to

- Protect young people from harm.
- Challenge myths and misinformation circulating among teens.
- Reduce risky behaviours and support pupils in making informed decisions.
- Respond proportionately with a safeguarding-first mindset.
- Provide targeted early help for vulnerable pupils.
- Support a safe, inclusive and healthy school environment.

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 (for example cannabis, cocaine, MDMA)
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs
- Vapes

## **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all pupils (Years 7–13), staff, governors, visitors and contractors, parents/carers, and external agencies. School boundaries include the school site, journeys to and from school, online spaces connected to school activity, and school trips/residentials/work experience.

## **3. Key principles**

Our approach reflects the Coriell Award framework: up-to-date education, regular staff training, pupil voice, partnership with parents/carers and agencies (CGL, Space4U, Police, Public Health), and trauma-informed safeguarding responses.

This approach is reflected in our 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.

#### **4. Links to other policies**

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, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

#### **5. Curriculum: Drug and Alcohol Education**

The school delivers a sequenced, spiral curriculum through PDC/RSHE, science lessons, form time, assemblies, drop down days and wider curriculum opportunities. We ensure pupils are taught sensitive subject in a safe and secure environment. They are signposted to support within school and in the wider community.

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

By the end of Year 11, pupils will understand:

- Legal/illegal drugs and their risks
- Vaping harms and nicotine addiction
- The law on possession, supply and online drug purchasing
- Impacts on physical and mental health
- Influence of substances on behaviour and decision-making
- Online risks including substance-linked exploitation
- Managing peer pressure and seeking help
- Consent, safety and first aid

However for those pupils that remain with us for Years 12 and 13 we build on prior learning and continue to educate our 16-18 year olds about staying safe.

## **6. 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.

**7. 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.

**8. Vulnerable pupils**

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

Support routes include: CGL (young people's substance use support), 1625 for transitions, Space4U (affected by others' substance use), Early Help/MASH referrals, and the CRE Toolkit to assess exploitation risk.

## **9. 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.

## **10. 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 pupils 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. Pupils 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 pupil 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 pupil 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.

## **11. 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.

## **12. 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.

Where substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, the parents of the pupil and the headteacher will be notified. The Headteacher and DSL will look at next step options including referring to the local police.

## **13. Responding to drug or alcohol related incidents**

**Immediate safety:** provide first aid; call emergency services if required; move pupil to a safe, supervised space; inform DSL.

**Initial enquiry by Headteacher/DSL considers:** what was taken, frequency, source, context, other pupils at risk, and exploitation indicators.

**Searches:** reasonable grounds; authorised staff with a witness; no intimate searches; follow DfE guidance.

**Temporary possession & storage:** seal, label with date/time/witness; secure locked storage; contact police for collection.

**Police involvement: follow NSPCC When to Call the Police;** on-site arrests avoided unless unavoidable for serious offences.

**Informing parents/carers:** usually informed unless this increases risk; follow safeguarding procedures if parental substance use is a concern.

Recording: all incidents on My Concern within 24 hours.

If the pupil is felt to be at risk, our 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.

The school is not legally required to give the name of a pupil to the police when there has been a drug related incident. 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

#### **14. 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.

#### **15. 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.

## **16. Managing Parents/Carers under the influence**

If a parent/carer is under the influence on site: they are asked to leave; supervision increased; police contacted if necessary. If collecting a child while impaired: assess safety; consult Head/DSL; contact police if child cannot be safely prevented from leaving and then follow our safeguarding procedures.

## **17. Information sharing and confidentiality**

Staff never promise confidentiality. Information is shared on a need-to-know basis in line with KCSIE, GDPR and local safeguarding procedures.

## **18. Governance and Leadership**

Governors ensure the policy is reviewed every two years, statutory RSHE requirements are met, staff receive adequate training, and curriculum/incident monitoring is in place.

## **19. Vaping (E-Cigarettes and Nicotine Products)**

Overview: Vaping among teenagers has increased nationally. The school recognises that nicotine harm, illicit vapes, and exploitation linked to vape supply are significant risks for young people. Vaping and possession of vapes or nicotine pouches are prohibited on school premises and during school activities.

**19.1 Definition-** Vaping refers to inhaling aerosol from an electronic cigarette or similar device, including disposable vapes, refillable devices, nicotine e-liquids/pods, and nicotine pouches.

**19.2 Legal Position-** It is illegal to sell nicotine vapes/e-liquids to under-18s or to purchase vapes for them (proxy purchasing). Illicit vapes may contain high levels of nicotine or other harmful substances.

The health risks of vaping

- High risk of nicotine addiction
- Potential interactions with anxiety/depression and poorer mental wellbeing
- Illicit vapes may contain drugs/counterfeit medicines
- Negative impact on sleep, concentration and impulse control

**19.3 Prevention & Education-** PDC teaching covers nicotine addiction, vaping harms, resisting peer pressure, evaluating online content, and recognising exploitation risks associated with vape supply. Fear-based approaches are avoided; interactive, skills-based learning is used.

**19.4 Responding to Vape-Related Incidents-** If found vaping or in possession: item confiscated; sealed, labelled, stored securely; parents informed unless risk increases; record on My Concern; assess health needs/vulnerabilities.

If unwell after vaping: treat as medical emergency; administer first aid; call emergency services if needed; inform DSL; undertake safeguarding assessment.

If supply/distribution suspected: assess exploitation risk using CRE Toolkit; consult School Liaison Officer; consider Early Help/Social Care referral; apply proportionate sanctions alongside support.

**19.5 Support & Consequences-** Support may include vaping cessation advice, CGL referral, pastoral mentoring and targeted education. Consequences include confiscation and sanctions; repeated or

serious incidents may lead to fixed-term exclusion in line with the behaviour policy. Exclusion is a last resort where vulnerability or exploitation is identified.

**19.6 Parents & Partnership-** The school communicates vaping risks to parents/carers, shares RSHE materials on request, and works with CGL, Space4U, Derbyshire Police and Public Health on local trends and support.

## 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 and upload onto My Concern

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?	
<b>Drug details</b>	
Were any drugs found/removed?	
Where were they found/seized?	
Name of witness:	
Signature of witness:	
Disposal arrangements:	
Police incident number (where applicable):	
<b>Parental details</b>	
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?	
<b>Administrative details</b>	
Form completed by:	
Job role:	
Signature:	
<b>Follow-up action taken</b>	

## Appendix B

KEY CONTACTS	
<b>SupportLine</b> 01708 765200 Email <a href="mailto:info@supportline.org.uk">info@supportline.org.uk</a>	Provides emotional support and keeps details of local agencies providing help and support for all issues relating to Drugs.
<b>Action on Addiction</b> 0300 330 0659 <a href="http://www.actiononaddiction.org.uk">www.actiononaddiction.org.uk</a>	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)
<b>Blenheim CDP (now part of Humankind)</b> 020 7582 2200 <a href="http://www.blenheimcdp.org.uk">www.blenheimcdp.org.uk</a>	Leading substance misuse charity working across London to reduce the harm by drug misuse to individuals and the public.
<b>City Roads Crisis Intervention</b> 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.
<b>DrugFam</b> 0300 888 3853 Email <a href="mailto:office@drugfam.co.uk">office@drugfam.co.uk</a>	DrugFam offers phone and email support to people affected by other people's drug or alcohol misuse.
<b>Families Anonymous</b> 0845 120 0660 <a href="http://www.famanon.org.uk">www.famanon.org.uk</a>	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.
<b>Frank</b> 0300 123 6600 <a href="http://www.talktofrank.com">www.talktofrank.com</a>	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).
<b>Phoenix Futures</b> Central Office 020 7234 9740	Charity which has been helping people overcome drug and alcohol problems for more than 40 years.
<b>UK Narcotics Anonymous</b> 0300 999 1212 <a href="http://www.ukna.org">www.ukna.org</a>	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.
<b>Release</b> 020 7324 2989 <a href="http://www.release.org.uk">www.release.org.uk</a>	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.

<b>Re-Solv Enquiries</b> 01785 810762 <a href="http://www.re-solv.org">www.re-solv.org</a>	Helpline providing information and support for people concerned about solvent or volatile substance abuse problems.
<b>Salvation Army</b> 020 7367 4500 <a href="http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk">www.salvationarmy.org.uk</a>	Runs homes for the treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts.
<b>Turning Point</b> 020 7481 7600 <a href="http://www.turning-point.co.uk">www.turning-point.co.uk</a>	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.
<b>USEFUL WEBSITES</b>	
<a href="http://www.wearewithyou.org.uk">www.wearewithyou.org.uk</a>	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.
<a href="http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk">www.alcoholconcern.org.uk</a>	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: <a href="mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk">contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.ash.org.uk">www.ash.org.uk</a> 020 7739 5902 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk">enquiries@ash.org.uk</a>	ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.
<a href="http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com">www.childrenslegalcentre.com</a> 01206 877910 Email: <a href="mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk">clc@essex.ac.uk</a>	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.
<a href="http://www.drinkaware.co.uk">http://www.drinkaware.co.uk</a>	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.
<a href="http://www.drugscope.org.uk">www.drugscope.org.uk</a>	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.

<a href="http://www.lukeandmarcustrust.org.uk">www.lukeandmarcustrust.org.uk</a>	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.
<a href="http://www.mentoruk.org.uk">www.mentoruk.org.uk</a>	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.

## Young people's drug and alcohol services for Derbyshire

- [Leaflet Space 4 U.pdf](#)
- [Leaflets 1625.pdf](#)
- [Leaflets CGL.pdf](#)
- Adult drug and alcohol services - [daas\\_service\\_information\\_leaflet.pdf](#)

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

