



Alcohol & Drug Policy

Date of Original Policy: December 2024
Member of Staff Responsible: Mrs W Bover, AHT & Mr R Hoben, SLT for PD
Review date: Every 3 years - September 2027

Approved by AKE on behalf of SLT on 11/12/2024
Approved by Full Governors on 17 December 2024 (Min No: 21/2024/25.10)

‘This policy was reviewed and has been impact assessed in the light of all other school policies including the Disability Equality Scheme.’

Parkside Community School recognises that we live in a society in which drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances, including new psychoactive substances or ‘legal highs’ are available and widely used. We believe that we have an obligation to inform and empower our students to enable them to make decisions that will result in them enjoying a healthy, active and responsible lifestyle.

For the purposes of this policy, the term ‘drug’ will refer to any non-life sustaining substance that enters the body and alters the physical, emotional and mental state of the individual, and can change the way they feel, think or behave.

1. Policy Statement

- Parkside School does not condone the misuse of drugs by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- Parkside School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- Parkside School acknowledges the importance of its role in safeguarding the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.

2. Aims of this policy

The purposes of this policy are to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme

- Enable staff to manage drugs, alcohol and illegal substances on the school premises, and any incidents involving such that may occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs, alcohol and illegal substances compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

3. Role of the Headteacher and the senior leadership team

The Headteacher will take overall responsibility for:

- The policy and its implementation
- Liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies
- The provision of adequate training and support for all staff

The Deputy Headteacher will:

- Have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy
- Ensure that the school and Governors are aware of up-to-date educational good practice and necessary training needs.

The Lead Teacher of PD will:

- Be responsible for the co-ordination of the drug education programme.

4. Drug Education

The main vehicle for the delivery of drugs education will be the PD lessons that form part of the core provision from Year 7 to Year 11. Additional work, as necessary, can be addressed through mentor sessions, assemblies and drop-down days. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education, to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse, and use their advice to further develop this area of the curriculum. Other curriculum addresses specific health and performance issues relating to drugs as per subject specific requirements.

The following principles underpin drugs education:

- The majority of secondary age children are likely to experience some form of drug use (including tobacco and alcohol) on a recreational or experimental basis and a minority will try illegal drugs.
- Drug use is not restricted to particular ethnic, social income or gender-based groups.
- Whilst students should be encouraged to express views in a secure atmosphere, they should not be pressured into making disclosures and staff should not disclose their own habits or experiences.
- Delivery should be broken down into units that are appropriate to age and experience of learners, recognising that particularly vulnerable students may require additional support.
- Units of work should include brief assessment procedures to establish the effectiveness of teaching and learning.

The purposes of drugs education are to:

- Provide accurate and up to date information relating to drugs.
- Explore attitudes towards drugs and drug use.
- Promote lifestyles that take due account of health issues relating to drugs.
- Draw attention to wider social and economic consequences of drug use.

Teaching methodology will encompass:

- Teaching will be in accordance with the appropriate schemes of work for KS3 and KS4.
- Provision of information drawing on up to date resources
- Promoting group and class discussion of issues
- Relating information closely to real life situations
- Encouraging understanding of differing individual and cultural attitudes to drugs
- Making planned use of external resources for example television, theatre in education, GPs, other agencies.
- Teachers will endeavour to be non-judgemental in delivery of the programme
(Details of teaching programmes are to be found in schemes of work)

Professional Development

- Staff engaged in delivery of the PD curriculum will be encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities, and/or directed towards published advice, relating to drugs education, particularly as this is a field of rapid change.
- New staff will be supported internally to ensure that they can approach the subject matter with confidence.
- Staff INSET/induction programme will include training staff on how to respond in the event of a student being suspected of using drugs/a disclosure. Staff will be regularly signposted to the DSL in school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Content and appropriateness of the schemes of work will be reviewed regularly.
- An evaluation of specific cases/responses will take place following each reported incident.

5. Management of Drug Incidents

We acknowledge that there will still be some young people of school age who will choose to experiment with illegal drugs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist peer pressure. With this in mind it is necessary for us to have clear procedures for with drug related incidents on school premises and for working with other services concerned with young people to offer appropriate advice and support.

The school's jurisdiction covers students from the time they start from home to travel to school until they arrive home after school, and also covers all school-related events and visits. When the welfare of other students and staff is compromised, this jurisdiction may also cover actions taken by students when they are not at school or a school related event. While under the school's jurisdiction, no student may at any time be in possession of a classified drug, alcohol, tobacco or other substance which may be similarly abused.

Should an incident occur, we will consider very carefully the implications of any action we may take, seeking to balance the interests of the student involved, the other members of the school and the local community. Permanent exclusion will be used as a last resort as we recognise that this may only transfer the problem.

Drugs

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of an illegal drug/legal high or is caught in possession of an illegal drug/legal high (or any form of drug paraphernalia) parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the headteacher (or designated member of staff). However, we reserve the right, in accordance with the current legal guidance, to exclude any student in possession of illegal drugs/legal highs, even for a first or one-off offence. Sanctions will range from internal isolation through fixed term-exclusions to permanent exclusion. In all cases of illegal drug possession or the possession of drug paraphernalia, the police will be notified and criminal action may result. We recognise that a student who is abusing drugs needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the school and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. Drug counselling, through the school nurse service will be offered, as appropriate, or a referral to other drug bases organisations.

Legal highs

These relate to all 'psychoactive' drugs, including 'legal highs', and can be described using three main categories: stimulants, 'downers' or sedatives, psychedelics or hallucinogens. They are substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Legal highs will be dealt with at Parkside Community School as a prohibited substance.

Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes, tobacco and matches

Students are forbidden to bring, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, lighters or matches on to the school premises. Students are also forbidden to smoke on the way to or from school, or on school visits. If found smoking or found in the possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, tobacco or matches, students will be sanctioned with sanctions including detentions/loss of social time/internal isolation in the first instance and parents/carers will be contacted. Further incidents may result in either internal isolation or fixed term exclusion. We recognise that any student who smokes, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the school and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the school nurse to be counselled regarding giving up smoking.

Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol on to the premises or to drink alcohol on the way to or from school. If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is caught in possession of alcohol, the student's parents/carers will be contacted. Depending on the severity of the incident the students at a minimum will face a fixed term exclusion. We recognise that any student who abuses alcohol, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the school and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the school nurse to be counselled regarding alcohol abuse.

Medicines and Legal Medicinal Drugs

Students are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into school unless they are for medication. In this case a medical consent form must be completed (these can be collected from reception) and must be prescribed medicines that are in date, labelled, provided in the original container as

dispensed by the pharmacist and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage. Facilities exist for students to keep supplies of some medicines and other medical supplies in reception. If a student needs to keep medicines in the reception parents should complete a medical consent form (this can be sent home with students). Students will always be expected to self-administer their medicine and are asked to take any medication within sight of reception staff. Antibiotics should not need to be brought into school, except on the advice of a qualified medical practitioner.

We only administer non-prescribed medicines that are in the original packaging with written consent on the 'Medical Consent Form' e.g. eye drops, Gaviscon, cough medicine. This will also only be on a short-term basis (where the school have concerns, they will seek further guidance from their link School Nurse).

It is our policy to give age-appropriate doses of paracetamol, ibuprofen and anti-histamine to secondary age students as described on the packet, if written consent from the parents has been received in advance of administration. We will check with the student that they have not previously taken any medication containing paracetamol or ibuprofen within the preceding 4 hours. We will never administer aspirin to any student under 16 years old unless prescribed by a doctor. All other pain relief medicine will not be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when previously taken. For further information please see Parkside Community School's 'Medical Conditions Policy'.

Searching and Confiscation

Under the Education and Inspections Act (2006) the headteacher and authorised staff have a statutory power to search a student or students or their possessions, without consent, where we have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco, e-cigarettes, cigarette papers, matches and lighters
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that the member of staff reasonable suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - o *To commit an offence*
 - o *To cause personal injury to, or damage the property of, any person (including the student).*

The Headteacher and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

At Parkside Community School, the rules also extend to:

- Legal high
- Electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes, e-lites and vapes)

Any student found to be in breach of any aspect of this policy will have the offending articles confiscated. In all cases, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco and cigarette papers will be disposed of. Illegal drugs, stolen items, pornographic images featuring children or any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:

- To commit an offence to cause personal injury to
- Or damage to the property of, any person (including the student) will be surrendered to the police.

For regulations regarding searching and confiscation within schools, please refer to the DfE guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-andconfiscation> as well as the schools' behaviour policy.

Procedure in dealing with drugs related incidents

School Position:

- It is unacceptable to bring any drug on to the premises other than for clear medical reasons and in such cases, reception should be notified and arrangements made.
- It is unacceptable to come to school under the influence of any drug.

Internal Referral Procedures:

- If a student appears to be under the influence of any drug s/he should be escorted by a member of staff to the safeguarding office for an assessment of the situation to take place. Staff in the safeguarding office will notify the Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.
- If a student is believed to be in possession of any illegal drug/legal highs, s/he should be escorted, along with his/her personal belongings e.g. bag and coat, by a member of staff to the safeguarding office. Staff in the safeguarding office will notify the Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.
- Where there is strong evidence or information relating to a drug related, but out of school problem, involving a student, the teacher in possession of the information will refer to the Deputy designated safeguarding lead and/or the senior leadership team. In most cases, the case will then be followed up through multi-agency meetings unless the matter is seen to be an urgent child protection one, in which case, the Pastoral Manager, Member of SLT or Head of Pastoral Care will follow the appropriate safeguarding procedures.

School Follow Up Responses:

- A search of the student and his/her belongings will be carried out.
- With cigarettes (including e-cigarettes), school reserves the right to deal with the matter internally or to inform parent(s) or carer(s) of school's concerns. (See also for reference the school's anti-smoking policy).
- For repeated incidents involving the smoking of tobacco indicating a serious habit, the student will be offered support to relevant outside agencies (See also for reference the school's anti-smoking policy).

- With alcohol, school's initial response will be to inform parent(s) or carer(s) and ask them to remove their child from the site.
- In the case of misuse of volatile substances, prescription drugs and over the counter medicines, the school will initially inform parent(s) or carer(s) and, if necessary, seek medical attention.
- In the case of any illegal drug/legal highs the school will, through the Headteacher, Member of SLT and safeguarding team, inform the parent(s) or carer(s) and will inform the police. The school reserves the right to exclude a student for such a breach of rules.
- In any case of a student passing on or selling an illegal drug/legal high on the premises, on journeys to or from school or offsite during school breaks, the Headteacher or designated member of the leadership team will inform parents, inform the police and will consider sanctions. The Headteacher reserves the right to recommend fixed-term or permanent exclusion to the Governing Body.
- In line with Derbyshire County Council recommendations, the Headteacher retains the right to hand over as evidence to the police any illegal drug or to destroy it in the presence of a witness.
- The exercise of powers of search will be in accordance with DfE guidance and current legislation.

Objectives behind informing parents:

- To fulfil the school's responsibilities in terms of informing parents of the well-being of their child.
- To make clear to parents that school should be a "safe" place, irrespective of personal preferences of students or parents.
- To offer support and advice to parents who may be both shocked and under-informed on drugs matters.

Objectives behind informing police:

- To enable them to exercise their judgement over what constitutes a breach in the law. • To enable us to draw on their support, advice and resources.
- To facilitate a two-way flow of information on drugs related issues that might affect the school/the school's students and/or staff.

Referral to Other Agencies:

- The objective underpinning referral to other agencies is always the future well-being of the student at risk. As a school, we expect to have basic knowledge to inform decisions but not the expertise to provide appropriate support in a complex case. In such circumstances, with the consent of the young person and parents, we will refer individual cases to other agencies. These agencies include the Health Services, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams and specialist agencies approved by Derbyshire County Council.
- In the knowledge that this is a fast-changing subject, school will take advantage of professional development and updating services made available to assist in periodic review of the policy.

The school is aware of its legal obligations with regard to these issues. The school will continue to work closely with the school's Police Liaison Officer on all issues relating to drug incidents with our students.