



## Drugs Policy

**Excellence for All**

Policy reviewed/updated	July, 2024
Next update	July, 2027
Committee	Pupils & Personnel Finance & General Purposes
Executive Headteacher	Mr Ben Waldram
Chair of Governors	Mr Pete Cumberland

Revision date	Author of changes	Summary of changes
July 2024	Ben Waldram	Updated some language, included use of vapes



To note: Please read this policy alongside the curriculum for RHSE and the school's Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy.

### **Introduction**

Any 'drugs' which are on the school premises (also inclusive of sites used in off-site visits) will be in use formally and with the full agreement of the Executive Headteacher/Head of School.

These include medication for the children and staff's own medication.

Children's medication is generally kept in the Green Medications Bag in each classroom e.g. Ventolin Inhaler. Any drugs which are required for an individual pupil with an identified need are kept securely in the school office and administered from there when needed.

Staff keep their medications on their person and safely away from the children e.g. Ventolin Inhalers or Paracetamol. Individual members of staff inform the Executive Headteacher/Head of school if they have a medical requirement which means that they have to keep and administer more serious medication in school. This is to protect all in the school community, including the person themselves.

### **Smoking**

The school site is a non-smoking site. It is not permissible for anyone to smoke on site.

### **Alcohol**

Alcohol is not generally on the premises. The only reasons why alcohol may be on the premises are the following –

- A gift brought in for a member of staff
- A prize at a fundraising event
- A social event at school for staff or parents e.g. Quiz Night.

### **Illegal Drugs**

**Illegal drugs are not permitted on the premises.** The site is checked weekly in an attempt to ensure that the site is safe and that if a person or group of people have accessed the site during the evening or weekend any illegal drug debris is removed e.g. needles or syringes will be stored in a sharps bin or a found substance locked in a cupboard for safekeeping to dispose of later via the Police. This is done before children and families arrive on site.

**If it is thought that a parent/visitor on the site is under the influence of drugs or alcohol** they will be asked to leave. If this involves a child or children being dropped off or picked up then alternative arrangements will be put in place for the child or children and recorded accordingly as a safeguarding concern.

If this happens repeatedly i.e. one person regularly intoxicated or under the influence of drugs coming onto the site, they will be told that they are not allowed on site and legal advice will be sought from the Local Authority legal department.

**It is recognised that school staff may not be able to identify a substance as a drug** and so each step is taken carefully to avoid confirmatory bias and rumour.

If drugs are found on the premises they will be collected safely and the matter will be reported to the Police. We shall follow their advice in regard to disposal.



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If drugs are found on a child, a full safeguarding investigation will follow including communication with parents, informing the Police and a referral to Social Care. This may result in a school sanction for the child depending on the nature of the drugs and/or tobacco/vapes. This also includes sharing drugs with other children. If it is apparent that the child is fully aware of their actions, then a school sanction could be put in place.

It is recognised that children are often used as drugs carriers for drug dealers and are manipulated and groomed by adults or older siblings to act as their 'agents'. This situation requires sensitivity and understanding of the vulnerable position the child is in. All staff have received training regarding County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation.

All such incidents will be recorded in detail on the electronic safeguarding log including a description of the drug, timing of the incident, individuals involved, the action taken. The Governing Body will be made aware of a drugs-related incident; all details of the child will remain anonymous.

**If the Executive Headteacher/Head of School has a strong suspicion that a child is carrying drugs** the child will be asked to remove all items from their person and belongings. School staff will only search a child's possessions if absolutely necessary, we will not search a child in person. We will inform the Police of a strong suspicion even if we do not have absolute evidence. This is our duty as DSLs in school and finally as a measure to protect the child.

**If a child discloses that they have been using drugs, a similar course of action is followed.** All information is recorded, parents are informed, the Police are informed and a referral is made to Social Care. At all times the child is treated with care and compassion. The child is a victim, a minor in need of help.

If a child or adult on the premises has taken a drug, their safety and well-being is always the first priority.

A drugs-related incident remains confidential to those who need to know as is the case with all safeguarding incidents.



Appendix 1 – Guidance from ASH

**Resources for schools on vaping**

[Action on Smoking and Health \(ASH\)](#) has developed this resource with advice from teachers, and educational experts on health and safeguarding.

The ASH youth vaping briefing for local authorities is [available online](#) and includes:

- national data on youth attitudes and behaviour
- an explanation of the laws on vaping
- how to report any breaches
- a myth-buster.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline NG209 covers schools based interventions in its recommendations on [preventing uptake](#).

The New Zealand Ministry of Health Vapefree Schools website has a range of materials designed to empower students to make informed decisions, by “making the law clear, the facts known and the decision theirs”.

Preliminary work with groups of young people in England and Wales suggests that young people in England and Wales found the New Zealand resources useful. In contrast the US real cost campaign, which does not put the risks of vaping in the context of the greater risks of smoking, led one group of young people to conclude that they would rather be seen smoking than vaping after viewing the campaign.

However, schools should be aware that vaping laws in New Zealand are not identical to the UK. For example, New Zealand schools must display notices stating that smoking and vaping within the premises is forbidden at all times, as this is a legal requirement. Schools in England could, however, consider doing this on a voluntary basis.

New content covering nicotine and nicotine vapes will be available from mid-September 2022 on the youth-focused [FRANK](#) website.