



**OAKWOOD  
PARK  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL**

# **Drugs and Substances Policy**

**Date:** May 2021

**Review Date:** May 2024

**Chair of Governors signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. J.', written over a horizontal line.

## **Drugs Policy**

### **Rationale**

The school aims to provide an environment which develops confident adults whose academic qualifications and personal qualities enable them to establish themselves in the world. In addition, the school has a statutory and non-statutory duty to promote pupils' wellbeing and as such has a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of our pastoral responsibilities.

Schools now have a statutory duty as set out in Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (September 2020) to ensure that pupils are empowered and informed to create a happy and successful adult life by having the 'knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy.'

In relation to drugs education this guidance states that by the end of secondary school students should know:

- the facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions
- the law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances
- the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood
- the physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency
- awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks
- the facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so

### **Aims of this policy**

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drugs education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs

- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies. Schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse

**This policy is underpinned by the following guidance:**

- Keeping Children Safe in Education – January 2021
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education – September 2020
- DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools – September 2012. This is non-statutory guidance which was developed to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.
- The National Curriculum Framework for Schools in England – December 2014. Specifically statutory guidance that the Key Stage 3 science curriculum should contain a unit of work about the effects of recreational drugs (including substance misuse) on behaviour, health and life processes.
- Education Act - 2011

**This policy works in conjunction with the following school policies:**

- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- PHSE Policy
- Statement of Ethos and Values

**Policy Scope**

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school.

The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

In line with 'Behaviour and Discipline in Schools' (January 2016) and the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy, the Headteacher has the power to discipline students for misbehaving outside of the school premises "to such extent as is reasonable". This might include behaviour that could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or poses a threat to another pupil or member of public or adversely affect the reputation of the school.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs at OPGS is not acceptable and will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy alongside the school's Safeguarding Policy.

## Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave".

In reference to this policy, drugs are defined as:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) – classified as Class A, Class B and Class C. This includes psychoactive drugs, once known as 'legal highs' which have now been classified as illegal
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled) including alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and psychoactive drugs not classified as illegal but prohibited under the Psychoactive Substances Act.
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

## Drugs Education

Drugs education is a major component of drug prevention. The following aims of drugs education will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school, the laws of society and will be appropriate to the age and maturity of the students

### Aims

To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs. Specifically:

- The rules and laws relating to drugs.
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- The risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues

To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy. Specifically:

- Promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- Resisting pressures
- Finding information, help and advice
- Developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves.

To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), local youth and community services and drug services.

## **Drugs Education Content**

This is delivered as part of the National Curriculum and as part of the school's PHSE and RSE Programme.

The National Curriculum Science Order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education:

- Key Stage 3: 11-14 year olds should be taught that "conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease"
- Key Stage 4: 14-16 year olds should be taught that "human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors, by the use and misuse of drugs and by medical treatments"

The schools meets statutory duty as set out in Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (September 2020) in ensuring that by the end of secondary school, students have received information on drugs which allows them to make 'informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy.' Requirements regarding this are set out in the 'Rationale' section of this policy.

Full details are set out in the school's PHSE and RSE Policies, however in summary drugs education forms part of the following topics:

- Year 7 - healthy choices, managing negative influences, drugs and the law, being responsible for your body and keeping safe
- Year 8 – mental health, self-esteem, drugs and alcohol
- Year 9 - peer pressure, gangs and knife crime, impact of drugs on society and individuals and addiction
- Year 10 – mental health and healthy relationships
- Year 11 – managing stress positively and health relationships
- Years 12 and 13 – drugs and the law, staying safe as an adult – drugs and alcohol, maintaining positive mental health, personal safety and steps toward living independently

Other curriculum areas such as Religious Education and Physical Education also contribute to aspects of the drug education curriculum.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Responsibility for coordination – Deputy Headteacher, Ms J Bevan and Director of Student Wellbeing, Ms K Ryan
- Deputy Headteacher, Ms J Bevan liaises with Kent Police and other youth agencies regarding up-to-date information on the local picture with regards to local trends in drug use and areas deemed to pose safeguarding risks to young people
- Director of Wellbeing, Ms K Ryan has responsibility for planning drugs education as part of her role in overseeing PHSE at the school
- Staff delivering specific aspects of drug education will have access to on-going advice, support and appropriate training as part of their own professional development
- Staff delivering specific aspects of drugs education are required to follow the school's Safeguarding Policy if they have concerns about an individual or group of pupils following the delivery of a drugs education lesson

- Where concerns are raised, the school's DSL will act in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy. This may culminate in making referrals for support to KCC's Front Door for Level 3 or Level 4 support and/or liaising with Kent Police
- The school also utilises external bodies specialising in drugs education, such as The Kenward Trust and Switch Cafe to deliver assemblies or work with students as part of our enrichment day programme. Safeguarding checks are carried out and delivery is tailored to the school's requests
- Ms K Ryan, Director of Wellbeing is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the PHSE programme of which drugs education is an integral part. This is conducted through some lesson observation and feedback from staff and students
- Curriculum Leader for Science, Ms R Limer has responsibility for elements of drugs education as set out within the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum

### **Management of drug-related incidents**

A drugs-related incident includes any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs – whether in school or in an out of school context
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness
- disclosure of drug use
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse
- involvement in 'county line' or gang-related drugs issues

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately
- The Headteacher or an available member of SLG will be informed of the situation immediately
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or a member of SLG as soon as possible in order to determine the facts.
- Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second member of the SLG is present
- The Headteacher or a member of SLG will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved
- Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff
- Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent as set out in Dfe guidance 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school (January 2018)

- Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search
- After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the security cupboard
- If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols
- A detailed record of the incident will be made by the DSL or Deputy DSL. A copy of the record will be kept by the Headteacher and DSL
- The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police. If so, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call
- If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Headteacher and appropriate member of SLG) in order to decide whether others outside the school should be informed
- These may include parents/carers, the appropriate personnel in the LA, Childrens' Social Care and police
- Responses and sanctions will take into account: the seriousness of the incident; the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned; the short and long term welfare of other students; school policies; published school rules, codes and expectations; repercussions for the orderly running of the school and whether the student remaining at the school poses a threat to another pupil or member of public or adversely affects the reputation of the school

### **Role of the Governors**

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, governors have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy.

### **Dissemination**

This policy is published on the school website. Links to policies on the school website are shared with parents.