



PLYMSTOCK SCHOOL

Drugs Policy

Lead Officer: Mr W Sprenkel

Date for Review: Autumn 2021

Rationale

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. To be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Aims of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines. Recently the use of the terminology 'legal highs' has increased nationally, this is a term used to describe substances that mimic the effect of illegal drugs, such as, cocaine, ecstasy and speed, but have been tweaked at a molecular level to evade previous drugs laws. These substances were made illegal in 2016 and are therefore included within the scope of this policy. **Appendix 1 provides further details on drugs classification.**

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, hard play areas, fields and extends to include other 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 Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Students and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children.

Smoking/Vaping

The school is a no smoking site at all times. This includes vaping. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking or vaping materials, including matches and lighters. 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 and parents informed.

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs can be brought on to, or used on school premises.

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 sniffable products.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities regarding drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance.

A member of the SLT (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Senior Assistant Headteacher) will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

Evidence of drug use or possession is likely to result in permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will only be considered in accordance with DfE guidance on exclusions. A case conference will be called if necessary. Each case will be assessed individually and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police for discussion. Illegal substances will be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored. Parents will normally be informed (for a student) and other professionals such as the LA, Youth Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate. The drug incident record form will be completed by the member of the SLT dealing with the situation. This form is held with the Headteacher's P.A.

For students caught in possession of drugs, they may face permanent exclusion from school. For any student supplying drugs to others they will always face permanent exclusion.

In line with legislation, the staff at Plymstock School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying unauthorised substances. Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular, if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Support for students

At our school, the welfare of the student is paramount. Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to students in distress.

Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral.

Plymstock School works closely with its Community Police Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items. Restorative justice, group work and education as well as links with home may be undertaken. Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

APPENDIX 1

Illegal drugs include:

- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Cannabis (any form e.g. hash, grass, pot, marijuana, dope, oil)
- Ketamine
- Ecstasy / MDMA
- Cocaine
- Crack
- Hallucinogens: natural Hallucinogens:
- synthetic Heroin
- Opiates
- Muscle-building steroids
- Methedrone (Miaow)
- Tranquillisers

Class A	Class B	Class C
Ecstasy	Cannabis	Tranquillisers
LSD	Synthetic cannabinoids	Some painkillers
Heroin	Amphetamines	Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)
Cocaine	Methylphenidate (Ritalin),	Ketamine
Crack	Pholcodine	
Magic mushrooms		
Amphetamines (if prepared for injection).		

Class A, B and C drugs are termed as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, with Class A being those considered most harmful.

Legal drugs include:

- Alcohol

- Prescription drugs
- Solvents
- Tobacco
- Poppers

Policy History

Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Contact	Implementation Date	Review Date
Autumn 2017	Policy review	Deputy Headteacher Pastoral	September 2019	Bi-annual Review