

Drugs Policy

Reepham High School and College

Agreed date: Summer 2025

Review date: Summer 2028

Responsibility of: Senior Leadership Team

Approved by:	Board of Governors	Date: Summer 2025
Last reviewed:	Spring 2022	
Next review due by:	Summer 2028	

Drugs Policy

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of this policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/residential etc.

Definition: "Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Drug Education: The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

- (i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education-
 - Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.
 - Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds should be taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions.
- (ii) PSHE focuses on knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills that
 - Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices

- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors are used in a planned way and their contributions are evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively works in partnership with agencies such as the LA, police, health and drug agencies and the Matthew Project.

Statutory duty of the school: The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the management of drug related incidents. The school has pastoral leaders and a pastoral team who, in their role overseeing the wellbeing of pupils, ensure the drugs policy is applied. The head of Pastoral will act with the governing body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies to ensure the policy remains appropriate and updated.

The school will not allow its premises to be used for the production, purchasing or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police. Parents will be informed.

Implementation of the policy: In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows. It should be noted here that, when dealing with drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as laid out in “The Right Responses” document and that all staff, parents/carers and pupils will be reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A
- General procedures for dealing with drug related incidents:-
 1. Pupils must be reported to the Head of Year/Key Stage or senior member of staff. They must in turn report the matter to the headteacher.
 2. The health of the pupil will be considered, and appropriate medical action taken if necessary.
 3. All items covered by the above categories will be confiscated and removed.

4. Parents will be contacted. In the event of illegal substances being suspected, the police will be contacted.
5. Disciplinary action will be taken.

The appropriate action will be taken and may include the following:-

- The immediate temporary removal of the pupil from the school by the parents
 - Lunchtime and after school detentions
 - A contract arranged governing the pupil's future behaviour in school
 - Fixed exclusion from the school
 - Permanent exclusion from the school
6. The involvement of the police in the case of the use/possession of illegal substances may lead to prosecution.
 7. Details of all incidents will be recorded and will be reported to the school governors.
 8. In all cases, a monitoring procedure will be introduced to ensure there is no regression. The school will endeavour to keep parents, governors, staff, and pupils aware of current situations and to keep the programme for drug education up-to-date and fully implemented.

This policy will be reviewed every three years and may be modified as required.

- Police will be involved in drug related incidents.
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of appropriate responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed. All staff, pupils, parents/carers will be informed of these issues. Appendix B sets out a framework which will be used as a guideline.
- The governing board will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The head of school will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required.

Additional support and advice is available from the School Drugs Adviser and LA Communication Officer-Education

All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

APPENDIX A : Drug situation – medical emergencies

APPENDIX B : Situations involving drugs without medical authority [see separate document]

Appendix A : Drug situations – medical emergencies

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused, or disorientated or who has taken harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency.

The main responsibility is for the pupil at immediate risk, but you also need to ensure the well-being and safety of others. Put into practice your school's first-aid procedures. *If in any doubt, call medical help.*

Always:

- Assess the situation
- If a medical emergency, send for medical help and ambulance

Before assistance arrives

If the person is conscious:

- Ask them what has happened and to identify any drug used
- Collect any drug sample and vomit for medical analysis
- **Do not** induce vomiting
- **Do not** chase or over-excite them if intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance
- Keep them under observation, warm and quiet

If the person is unconscious:

- Ensure that they can breathe and place in the recovery position
- **Do not** move them if a fall is likely to have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- **Do not** give them anything by mouth
- **Do not** attempt to make them sit or stand
- **Do not** leave them unattended or in charge of another pupil
- Notify parents/carers

For needle stick (sharps) injuries:

- Encourage wound to bleed. **Do not** suck. Wash with soap and water. Dry and apply waterproof dressing
- If used/dirty needle seek advice from a doctor

When medical help arrives

- Pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples

Complete a medical record form as soon as you have dealt with the emergency.

This form is based on Appendix 9 of *Drugs: guidance for schools*.

APPENDIX B: Responding to incidents involving drugs

