

Hulme Hall Grammar School



Alcohol, Drugs & Substances Policy

Policy Control	
Report	Alcohol, Drugs & Substances
Approval Body	Education Committee
Date Reviewed	November 2023
Review Schedule	Annual
Next Review Date	November 2024

Introduction

This policy has been authorised by the Governors and is available to parents and pupils on request. The policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol and the misuse of controlled drugs and other substances and applies to all pupils at Hulme Hall Grammar School irrespective of their age. The policy may also apply at times when a pupil is not in the care of the School. The procedures and sanctions may be adapted as appropriate to meet the policy aims and the circumstances of each case. Certain of the procedures can only be carried out during term time.

The School will give due regard to the DfE guidance document *DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) drug advice for schools (2012)*.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Hulme Hall Grammar School Visits Policy, Staff Supervision of Children Policy and the Behaviour and Discipline policy.

Alcohol: means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, consuming, and supplying alcohol.

Drugs and Substances: means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, substances intended to resemble drugs (psychoactive substances ' - legal highs) or legal drugs which can be obtained from a chemist, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse. This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To combine a balanced educational programme with robust disciplinary action against any pupils who misuse alcohol, drugs and substances
- To promote safety, welfare and good physical and mental health through informed judgements.

Education

We educate pupils to understand the effect and risks associated with alcohol in relation to their health and well-being and the law and that the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to their health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers and will damage the society in which they live. We educate by means of PSHE and Biology classes, assemblies and with liaison with external agencies e.g. Healthy Stockport / MOSAIC.

Aims of the education programme are:

- Improving pupils' knowledge of the physical, psychological, social and legal implications of alcohol and drug taking
- Helping pupils to make informed decisions about alcohol and drugs.

The effectiveness of the drugs education programme is reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher (Pupil progress / DSL) and our PSHE lead teacher.

Pastoral Care

We encourage pupils to discuss in confidence any anxieties they may have about use of alcohol or drugs and substance abuse with a member of staff or Pastoral Manager. Matters brought into such discussions by a pupil or their parents, in circumstances which are genuine, will be 'ring-fenced' from disciplinary sanctions, but a pupil who contravenes this policy will face disciplinary sanctions.

Schools have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. The School will aim to distinguish between those who require general information and education, and those who could benefit from more targeted prevention.

School Rules and Terms and Conditions

The School's rules and Terms and Conditions forbid a pupil from:

- Possession, use or supply of drugs and substances at any time
- Bringing alcohol onto School premises, being in unsupervised possession/consumption of alcohol, obtaining alcohol from or supplying it to another, being impaired by alcohol while on School premises, in the care of the School or on the way to or from School
- Bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol or drugs and substances, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

Detection

Every complaint, report, or observation in relation to alcohol or involvement with drugs and substances will be followed up and investigated. A pupil suspected of such involvement may be asked to work at home or in isolation at School, pending the outcome of any investigation.

Sanctions

Any response to Alcohol, Drugs and Substance related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with those of the wider School community.

The School will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. In any decision it makes, it will seek to comply with the law and to balance the interests of the pupil with the interests of other members of the School. The School wishes to support parents as well as it can and will inform them, in general terms, about its alcohol and drugs education policies and will inform individual parents if their child is involved in any incident involving such substances.

Alcohol: Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy. For a serious breach or persistent minor breaches, a pupil may be required to leave the School permanently.

Drugs and Substances: The School operates a policy of 'zero tolerance' with regard to drugs. Anyone supplying drugs must expect to be permanently excluded even if they are about to sit public examinations. Anyone possessing or using drugs must also expect to be permanently excluded.

If the Headmaster's decision after considering all the material evidence is that the pupil has consumed, supplied or possessed alcohol / drugs or substances (as applicable), the Headmaster will hear mitigating circumstances and consider the pupil's academic and disciplinary record and the extent to which they have co-operated, before deciding on the sanction.

If the pupil is permanently excluded, they and their parents have the right to appeal the decision in accordance with the School's Exclusions and Appeal Procedure.

Alcohol and / or drug use may be the symptom of other problems and a pupil will be referred to other services where required.

Staff Training

Staff will be trained on how to recognise and manage issues involving alcohol, drugs and substances.

Parents

Parents may request a copy of the Alcohol, Drugs and Substances Policy if they wish to discuss it with their child. The School encourages open discussion between parents and their children, so they are aware of the issues and pressures in this area.

The School will be alert to issues with children's family members misusing alcohol or drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected, or a pupil chooses to disclose, this may become a safeguarding issue and the School's safeguarding procedures will be followed. The pupil's welfare and support needs will be considered closely.

Searches for Alcohol, Drugs and Substances

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress to the pupil(s) concerned.

The member of staff conducting the search must be of the same sex as the pupil being searched and any search should be conducted with another (second) member of staff present. This second member of staff witnessing the search should also be of the same sex as the pupil, where this is reasonably practicable. Any search of a pupil's possessions will be carried out in the presence of the pupil.

Parents will be informed of the search as soon as is reasonably practicable. See the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy for further details of the School's policy on searching and confiscation.

Searches with consent: School staff can search a pupil or a pupil's possessions for alcohol, drugs or substances with their consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving his / her consent.

Searches without consent: The Headmaster and staff authorised by the Headmaster may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions without their consent where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has alcohol or drugs or substances in their possession.

Confiscation: On confiscating alcohol, drugs or substances, staff should immediately pass the item to a member of the SLT. The Headmaster will determine how the item will be dealt with, in accordance with the guidelines in the School's policy on searching and confiscation in the School's Behaviour and Discipline policy. If staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Police involvement

The School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset. If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own methods. If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and:

- Following any serious incident involving alcohol or drugs and substances
- Following the issue of any new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

The review will be carried out by the Deputy Head (Pupil Progress / DSL), who will also evaluate the content and effectiveness of education on these matters in the School. A report will be made to the Governors (at the Education Committee Meeting) who will authorise any necessary amendments.

Support from External Agencies

- 'Talk to Frank' - 24-hour confidential telephone advice about drugs is offered by the National Drugs Helpline - 0300 1236600 <http://www.talktofrank.com>
- Drinkaware - charity promoting responsible drinking and reducing alcohol misuse - www.drinkaware.co.uk
- Childline Helpline 0800 1111 childline.org.uk
- Drugwise.org.uk
- Actionaddiction.org.uk
- Drugfam.co.uk
- Adfam.org.uk
- Stockport MOSAIC 0161 218 1100
- Pathfinder Stockport is provided by Pennine Care NHS Trust 0161 716 4000.



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