



CHIPPING NORTON SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

Non Statutory

Reviewed by: Student Development and Support Committee

Date reviewed: October 2016

Next review: February 2020 (Review every four years)

Member of staff responsible: Natalie Hancock, Deputy Headteacher

Governor Responsible: Sandra Coleman, Chair Committee

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors' Student Development and Support Committee because of the changing drugs landscape both nationally and locally. This policy has been written with reference to the DfE guidelines on Behaviour & Discipline in Schools as well as the DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) drug advice for schools.

1. Ethos of the school

Chipping Norton School actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies. This is a school where human rights are respected; as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of Chipping Norton school community. The school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account.

2. Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided through Citizenship and Science lessons. Our School Nurse is available to give advice and guidance on drugs and drug related issues. Students should be supported to make informed decisions about healthy lifestyle options. They say that they find input from external education agencies particularly useful. In response we aim to ensure that this is provided by approved agencies at regular intervals throughout their time at school. All staff involved in drugs education are trained in child protection and safeguarding procedures. In the event of a disclosure made by a student, staff will follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy to ensure that the correct procedures are followed. This may result in a referral to Social Care or the Police. Where possible, parents will be contacted to inform them of this action. However, the safety and well-being of the student is paramount and therefore there may be times when parents are not informed of our actions.

3. Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and legal highs. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters,

matches, lighters and pipes etc. 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 exist.

4. Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also 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 policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Oxfordshire Health & Safety guidelines. Please refer to our policy for the education of students with health needs.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the school day. Students, parents, carers and visitors under the influence 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 remove their children from the school

Smoking

School premises are no smoking sites at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking 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. Smoking on or within 200m of the school premises may result in a fixed term exclusion. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and legal highs

No illegal drugs, legal highs or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises 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 solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

5. 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
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community. Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident and permanent exclusion is only considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain at Chipping Norton School would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school

A member of the SLT 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 making an assessment of 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.

6. Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (February 2014) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

7. 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 a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Police, GP, Social Care will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

8. Confidentiality

Chipping Norton School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Child Protection and Confidentiality policies for more information on this).

9. Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Counsellor, School Nurse, Head of Year or Pastoral Support Assistant)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support (CAN). See Appendix A.
- Involvement of the Police or the School's Liaison Officer

10. Right to Search

In line with recent legislation the staff at Chipping Norton School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances. Similarly students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out by Head of Year or members of the Senior Leadership Team.

If inappropriate articles are brought into school or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal they will be handed to the Police for safe disposal. Chipping Norton School works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, restorative justice conferencing, group work and education as well as links with home. Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved.

Similarly the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of action should be taken

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Student Support committee will review this policy every four years. This review will examine any drug related incidents within the school and evaluate how these were dealt with and resolved