



CHIPPING NORTON
SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY (NON STATUTORY)

Date reviewed:	September 2024
Next review:	September 2028
Member of staff responsible:	Natalie Hancock (DHT and DSL)
Committee:	Impact Committee

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors' Impact 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.

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.

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through our Character Education programme 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. 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/carers 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/carers are not informed of our actions, if we feel that a child will be placed at further risk.

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, vapes, 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.

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, tents, marquees, hotels or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises during 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 Children 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 & Vaping

School premises are no smoking/vaping sites at all times. Students are not permitted to bring cigarettes/vapes/vaping or smoking materials, including matches and lighters onto the school premises. 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 or vaping on or within 200m of the school premises may result in a fixed term suspension.

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.

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. Suspension 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 LT will normally be responsible for coordinating 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.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016) 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.
- 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 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, Youth Offending Team, Police, GP, Social Care will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Chipping Norton School will always seek to work with parents/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).

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 (School Nurse, Head of Key Stage, Senior Pastoral Leader)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support e.g. Cranstoun. See Appendix A.
- Involvement of the Police or the School's Liaison Officer
- 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 the Pastoral Leads or members of the 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

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Impact 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.

APPENDIX A: FURTHER ADVICE AND GUIDANCE / USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

- Cranstoun provides valuable help and support through Oxfordshire County Council's revamped service, Here4YOUth. The service will offer advice, support and therapeutic interventions for those aged between eight and 18 affected by their own substance use or a family member's. Website info@cranstoun.org.uk Tel: 020 8335 1830
- Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk
- ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk
- Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
- Aquarius a charity with services across the Midlands, supporting people affected by alcohol, drugs and gambling <https://aquarius.org.uk/about-aquarius/>. Tel: 0121 622 8181236. Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B5 7SL
- ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk
- Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com
- Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk
- Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/
- Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)
- Drug Education Forum - this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/
- DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk
- FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com
- Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk
- National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk
- Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

- Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse). A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org
- Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169. Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>
- Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk
- Youth Offending Teams - Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team> www.angelusfoundation.com www.whynotfindout.org