

Stanborough



Drugs Policy

Reviewed by:	Standards & Achievements Committee
Date of Issue:	June 2023
Date of next Review:	June 2024
Responsible member of SLT:	Jessica Vlijter

Grow and Succeed

High Expectations | Mutual Respect | Quality Learning | Success for All

Our policy is set within the school's four principles of:

High Expectations

Quality Learning

Mutual Respect

Success for all

Principles

The principles of the Drug Education Policy of Stanborough School are embodied in the four principles of the school: High Expectations; Mutual Respect; Quality Learning and Success for All; and in the Stanborough Code. This policy applies in school, when students are travelling to and from school, when students are in uniform and on educational visits.

The process of policy writing involved consultation between the Headteacher, representatives of teaching and non-teaching staff, school governors, parents/carers, the school council, the county Drug Education Consultant, the school nurse and the schools' local police Youth Crime Reduction Officer/ Police Community Support Officer.

Further guidance came from the Hertfordshire County Council Drug Education Guidance document and national guidance, specifically DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012)

This school defines the term 'drug' as: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave" and therefore includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances and therefore includes all illegal drugs (controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, khat, alkyl nitrates (known as poppers), new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') and volatile substances and all over-the-counter and prescription medicines. This definition applies throughout the whole document.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation.

All non-medical drugs on school premises are unacceptable. Stanborough is a no smoking site – smoking is not allowed at any time. Alcohol may be used during evening functions by both FOSS and hirers of our facilities within the terms of the appropriate Special Licence

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances are rising, it is important to recognise that many young people are choosing not to do so.

Practice

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give students knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

We aim to:

- Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through helping them to increase their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practicing skills.
- To help young people to develop further a sense of self-worth and self-esteem.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To help young people to distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- To counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing, or likely to experience, drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs.).
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.

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- To enable students to identify where help and support can be found.
- To develop as a Health Promoting School.

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- A co-ordinated, integrated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to students' needs.
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.
- Reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations.
- Content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturities of all students, including those with special educational needs and English as an additional language.
- Involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents/carers, students and visitors.
- Training and support for all staff in the planning and implementation of drug education and drug awareness, in order to help them to respond to drug related incidents.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.
- Recognising that adults are role models for students and committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment; not using alcohol on the premises; working in partnership with parents and carers and finding ways to avoid the need for over-the-counter drugs, such as finding a quiet room or corner for headache sufferers.

Planning

Opportunities for drug education will be clearly identified on long, medium and short term plans.

Special Educational Needs

In planning drug education for students with SEN, our teachers consider a range of responses. For example:

- Additional support given by staff
- Activities may be differentiated or adapted
- Programme aspects may need to be emphasised or expanded
- Revisiting knowledge and skills in different contexts
- Using strategies to increase access to drug education, such as theatre projects, ICT, school visits and specialist equipment.

Teaching – curriculum, materials and approaches

Drug Education opportunities include:

- Through planned elements of National Curriculum subjects, including Science and RE
- Life Skills lessons
- Pastoral time
- Assemblies
- Through planned visits from school nurse, police officer or other appropriate people and services e.g. Talk to FRANK and NHS Smoking Services
- Through informal curricular / extra curricular activities.

A wide range of teaching approaches is used and we particularly encourage active and accelerated learning methods, which involve student's full participation. Ground rules will be negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognised, safeguarding the interests of the students and everyone.

The work will be regularly monitored and evaluated by all staff and students.

Confidentiality

Some students may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or to individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, they need to follow our Child Protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

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Liaison between schools, with parents and the wider community

We will work with other schools in the area to develop consistent practices to support young people. This includes paying attention to the needs of young people as they transfer from primary to secondary school. We recognise that this and other aspects of community liaison is an important area to which we can contribute with the support of colleagues throughout Children's Services, the Police, the local authority and other agencies.

Roles and responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Drugs education across the school will be overseen and co-ordinated by the Life Skills Co-ordinator. Whenever adults interact with students, they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

All staff should consider themselves as role models whose behaviour the students are likely to notice and often follow. Staff also have a responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incident. They receive training and support in delivering their responsibilities.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are fulfilled, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug related incidents.

Response to possible drug related incidents

Possession, use and supply of illegal drugs and alcohol and legal drugs as defined in 'Principles' on page 1

The possession by students of any drugs, tobacco or alcohol on the school site at any time is forbidden. Students are also forbidden to be on school premises under the influence of drugs and / or alcohol. Possession, being under the influence, misuse or supply of drugs in school will result in exclusion from the school. A student who supplies any drugs or other solvents (whether legal or illegal, and regardless of the seriousness of the use) on the school premises or on the way to and from school or otherwise in the care of the school will normally be permanently excluded for a first offence.

'Supply' includes retailing drugs on the premises, communicating with a drug dealer on behalf of another student of the school, introducing fellow students to a drug dealer, and any other instance of procuring legal or illegal drugs for him/herself or other students.

'Supply' includes supplying for money or free of charge.

In the case of the supply of a drug which is legal (including over-the-counter drugs) the Headteacher will assess the seriousness of the incident before deciding whether to exclude permanently or for a fixed period.

Before making a decision on exclusion the Headteacher will ensure that a full and satisfactory investigation has been carried out.

Parents and students are informed of this policy through the school prospectus; the Headteacher's address to prospective parents on Open Evening; the 'Starting at Stanborough' booklet, occasional reminders in the 'Stanborough Times', in the student's Personal Organiser and in assemblies.

The only medical drugs allowed on site are those for the essential use of staff or students. Epipens and asthma inhalers should remain with the prescribed individual throughout the day. Medication for use by diabetic individuals should also remain with the prescribed individual. Any essential painkillers must not be kept by individual students but handed in at the school office to be stored in named containers and their use recorded by the school matron. The SLO will also store additional epipens and inhalers as necessary, and administer and record their use.

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We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by Children's Services and national guidance. (Ref: " DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, September 2012). If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

In addition to responding to any necessary medical emergency, the Headteacher must be informed, and an appropriate response considered. We will refer to the DfES guidelines on responding to drug related incidents to determine the necessary response. The implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. **The focus of any response will be the student not the substance and we will seek to balance the interest of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.**

Responses will be cross-referenced with related school policies such as:

- Behaviour and Rewards
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Off-site Visits

The management of drug-related incidents in school.

The details of the school's policy for handling drug-related incidents are as follows:

Stanborough School is a non-smoking site. All members of the school community are expected to uphold this requirement. Students who are found smoking will be dealt with under the behaviour management policy.

Teachers must all be alert to the warning signs that students may be misusing drugs, including alcohol. We recognise that early detection of drug or alcohol misuse is extremely important and teachers must be vigilant both on the school premises and when accompanying groups of students away from school premises.

Students suspected of involvement in drugs-related incident will be interviewed, in the first instance, by two senior members of staff, one of whom will be a member of SLT. Notes will be taken of the interview, including timings of the interview and if, and at what time, any other persons were present during the proceedings.

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

If drugs are discovered on the school premises, school staff will take temporary possession of any substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting a student from harm. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug. The substance will be handed to the Headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff, placed in a sealed container and both signed and dated. It will then be safely stored until it can be collected by a police officer who will advise the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. All such incidents will be recorded.

Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child. There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search.

Schools would normally inform the individual student's parents or carers where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

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Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.

Senior members of staff may search a student's locker/bag where they have reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items including drugs. Where it is suspected that students are concealing illegal drugs on their persons they will be asked to produce the substance (by, for example, turning out their pockets). If a student refuses, no further physical action can be taken by the teacher. At all times it is recommended that teachers have another colleague with them to act as a witness to the investigation. This is to protect the interests of the teachers, who are aware of the legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving the Headteacher.

Before any further steps are taken, parents will be contacted and asked to attend school. The Headteacher reserves the right, at their discretion, to summon police assistance at any time and will, in exceptional circumstances, allow police to interview students on site without parents present if efforts to locate the parents have failed. Students and parents must understand that this is the school's policy on any occasion when drugs are discovered on the school site.

We reserve the right to ask that a student complete a forensic test to confirm they have not used drugs. This test may be performed either on a random basis or, where staff has reasonable cause for suspicion, in relation to a student's behaviour, smell or after relevant information is received. We will always contact parents before we do this.

These rules and procedures also apply to students on their way to and from school and when they are in Stanborough School uniform. Although the involvement of students in drug-related incidents out of school hours and away from school grounds does not directly affect the life and work of school, the Headteacher retains the right, at their discretion, to consider the effects of such incidents upon the good name of the school and to take any action he considered appropriate.

Health and Safety of Students

In the absence of indication of drug misuse on school premises, it is not considered appropriate to organise special daily or weekly checks of the school grounds for signs of drugs misuse. Any suspicious items discovered during routine patrolling of the school will, of course, be referred to the Headteacher or designated person for drugs incidents, for consideration.

All teachers must be prepared to deal with drugs-related emergency by calling on one of the school's trained first aiders and also summoning professional medical help. The Headteacher must always be informed and parents must always be contacted as soon as possible. This also applies to parents/carers and other visitors to the school.

Where problems with parents/carers or family members' misuse of drugs are observed or suspected the student's welfare and support needs will be addressed in relation to Children's Services, the family and other commissioned services (e.g. Drug and Alcohol Action Teams programmes) where appropriate.

REFERENCED POLICIES

- Behaviour and Rewards (SS-POL-SAA-016)
- Health and Safety (SS-POL-FAR-001)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection (SS-POL-FGB-002)
- Off-site Visits Policy (SS-POL-SAA-008)

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document Control		
Edition	Issued	Changes from previous
1	June 2020	New Policy
2	June 2021	No changes
3	June 2022	Updates to referenced policies
4	June 2023	No changes

End of Policy

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