



## Spring Hill High School Drugs Policy

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**Policy:** Drugs Policy

**Procedure Reference:** SHHS 1

**Version Number:** 2.0

**Date :** September 2021

**Review Date:** September 2022

**Authorised by:** Directors

**Updated by:** Gary Edmunds

**To be read in conjunction with:** Safer Recruitment Policy and Staff Code of Conduct, Behavioural Policy, Social Moral Spiritual Cultural (SMSC) Policy, Anti Sexting Policy, Safeguarding

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### Aims

**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 on how to respond to any drug-related incident, for parents and staff. 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.

Clarify support and sanctions for pupils in relation to drugs. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's Behaviour Policy.

### Definition

"Drugs" include those substances that are legal such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed drugs, new psychoactive substances (NPS - "legal highs") and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

### Principles and Purpose

Drug education is part of the Statutory Science Order and the PSHE and SMSC Curriculum, and contributes to the:-

**Promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of all pupils**

**Creation of an environment where pupils feel comfortable to discuss drug related issues.**

The policy seeks to develop the following knowledge, attitudes and skills among pupils:

### Knowledge

To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by providing accurate up to date information about different drugs and to consider their use/misuse/harm and benefits



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appropriate to their defined purpose. To give access to information about support services to all concerned parties.

### **Attitudes :**

To enable pupils to discuss and challenge attitudes/stereotypes to drug use and misuse in society.

To enable pupils to discuss the role of medicines in maintaining an individual's health and well-being.

Skills to keep themselves and others safe.

To recognise that their actions have consequences for themselves and others.

To know where to go for support and advice.

### **Assessment**

Drug education will be assessed as part of the overall provision for Science, PSHE and SMSC.

### **Implementation of the Policy:**

When dealing with illegal drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as previously laid out in "The Right Responses" document. All incidents involving illegal drugs will be treated on an individual basis.

In instances of knowledge of illegal drug production or supply on the premises and following discussion between staff members who know the pupil: Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil. School and parents will work together to support the student. The pupil will be made aware of local drug agencies and helplines to seek counselling and advice.

In instances of drug misuse outside school, staff will inform the Deputy of site with pastoral responsibilities, who will take action through the Headteacher and inform the parents.

### **Role of the Police**

Illegal and under age use of legal substances that are not duly authorised by those who have parental responsibility and/or health professional -

The school will work in partnership with the Police Community Liaison Officer to ensure that there is an agreed protocol for managing such incidents.

Advice will be sought to establish whether the: incident can be managed by the school or that police will be actively involved; pupil's name may be withheld or divulged.

### **Duty of care if a student is suspected of being intoxicated**

As advised by the Police Community Liaison Officer, if we suspect any person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol in school, we will make a safeguarding referral.

We do not undertake testing for substances (illegal drugs/alcohol). The school will use their professional judgment based on the student's behaviour indicators and will organise their return to their home address as soon as is safe and practicable in the circumstances. This is to ensure our duty of care to the student is maintained.



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The school will make parents and carers aware immediately in the event that the school deems a student to be intoxicated.

### Searching and Confiscation

Staff authorised by the Headteacher have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, with or without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may be in the possession of drugs.

If possible the member of staff carrying out a search should be the same sex as the pupil being searched. Also, another adult must be present during the search, preferably of the same sex.

If any pupil or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated.

Confiscated items will be sealed in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find, witness present. They will be stored in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff.

In the event that possession of an unauthorised drug is discovered on a residential trip, once it has been sealed, dated and witnessed, it will be taken to the nearest police station for storage and disposal.

If the drug is suspected to be illegal or an NPS, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug and record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary.

### Legal Drugs

The police will not be involved unless they are NPS but the school will retain the right to contact the police or Trading Standards about inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils.

### Confidentiality

The boundaries of confidentiality should be explained to a pupil who wishes to disclose information, to ensure that teaching staff fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to child protection, police investigation and external services.

### Governor's Responsibility:

The Governor's of the School will be involved in drug use/misuse and drug-related incidents through their responsibility for developing the school's policy and practice on drugs prevention and education and through the implementation of the school's sanctions procedures.

### Sanctions and Discipline

The possession and or use of such drugs and NPS in school, during the school day or while travelling to and from school is unacceptable. 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 if needed during the school day.



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The school will not tolerate the misuse of drugs or the illegal supply of drugs by members of the school. The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The implications of any action will be considered in the light of the whole school community.

However, serious sanctions will be applied to ensure the safety of all pupils and to deter others from using or dealing drugs on the school premises in accordance with the school's sanctions procedures. Any pupil involved in an incident involving either illegal drugs or NPS within school will be offered additional support, information and guidance on the implications of using drugs as part of the sanction.

This policy will be:

Implemented through the on-going consultation with all members of the school community eg Parent meetings.

Reflected in practice through the regular review of the Schemes of Work.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

**This policy will be reviewed: September 2022**