# DRUGS EDUCATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

This document uses the term drug to include; alcohol, tobacco, nicotine products (vapes), illegal drugs, over-the-counter / prescription medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances (including solvents), unless otherwise specified; that has potential to affect how a person thinks, feels and behaves.

This policy applies to all employees, students, parents and carers, governors, visitors to the school including contractors, and partner agencies working within the school.

The governors will delegate responsibility to the leadership and management of drug education and drug incidents to named members of the SLT.

## Intent

### Drug Education

The aim of drug education is to provide students with opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions.

To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:

- the short-term and long-term effects and risks of drugs.
- the rules and laws relating to drugs.
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities.
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers.
- the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.
- the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues including Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

To develop students' social and emotional skills so they can make informed choices and keep themselves safe and healthy including:

- promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- assessing, avoiding and managing risk.
- communicating effectively.
- resisting pressures.
- finding information, help and advice.
- devising problem solving and coping strategies.
- developing self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves

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To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), local youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education.

The programme is constantly under review to ensure that the health education element is adequate and appropriately timed.

**Drug Incidents**

Drug use and misuse have become increasingly common in our society. Shirley High School recognises the need to prepare and equip young people for life in a drug using society. The school needs to be prepared and able to deal with the broad range of drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the lives of our students and others involved in the life of the school.

**Shirley High School recognises that the possession, use, supply (or selling) of illegal or unauthorised drugs is unacceptable, operating a 'zero tolerance' policy.**

For this policy, the geographical boundaries of the school include all buildings and grounds including car parks, playgrounds, fields and the netball courts. It includes The School House and its designated garden. This policy also covers any incident that may occur off school premises while on school business; travelling to and from school in school uniform, school day visits and residential visits both within the UK and abroad.

If an incident involving drugs should occur, the first concern is always for the health and safety of the school community and meeting the needs of students. Thus, administering first aid and summoning help in the case of medical emergencies will always take priority before dealing with any issues.

**Implementation**

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) member with line management responsibility for PD in conjunction with the Head of PD plan, prepare and co-ordinate Drug Education at Shirley High School. Curriculum information can be found in the PD curriculum maps on the school website

In brief, all students consider issues to do with smoking, alcohol and other drugs (medicinal, recreational and illegal). They learn:

- facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse, and the personal and social consequences of misuse for themselves
- ways of recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations
- other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills.
- rights and responsibilities, so they can explore moral, social and cultural issues and discuss and debate topical issues.

Other curriculum areas such as Science, Religious Education and Physical Education also contribute to aspects of the drug education curriculum.

PD is delivered by form tutors and supplemented by outside agencies/ external facilitators. These can include the police, Croydon Drop-In, Alcoholics Anonymous and the School Nursing team.

In all subjects it is inevitable that the teaching of apparently unrelated topics will occasionally lead to a discussion on aspects of drug education. Such discussions are relatively limited and set within the context of the subject concerned, and does not constitute part of the Drugs Education programme. Teachers will draw upon their professional judgement and common-sense to deal effectively with such occurrences.

Staff will ensure that drug education is accessible to students with special educational needs and / or disabilities by considering resources and materials used, timings, teaching strategies etc.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) member, with line management responsibility for PD, and the Head of PD undertake monitoring and evaluation of the delivery of Drug Education. This is conducted through lesson observations / lesson drop ins / learning walks and monitoring of the PD booklets. Written evaluations by students and also a variety of informal activities involving feedback and evaluative discussion are built into the PD programme.

PD is an agenda item at Pastoral meetings and CPD is undertaken with staff in the academic year.

All of this, as well as:

- liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead following completion of the annual LA Safeguarding Audit and their attendance at the termly LA Safeguarding Forums
- disseminates current information to staff by the DSL

ensures up to date information and consideration of contextual safeguarding to inform future Drug Education planning.

**Management of Drugs Incidents in School**

The Deputy Principal - Pastoral is the named member of staff for drug related incidents.

Defining a drug-related incident:

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity;
- involvement in 'county line' or gang-related drug issues

When a student is discovered either in possession of, and/or under the influences of, and/or dealing in, and/or having admitted to using illegal drugs, the following course of action will be taken:

- Medical assistance will be sought if appropriate.
- The Police will be informed of the incident and their advice taken regarding any subsequent action.

In the case of controlled drugs, in taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs the following will be undertaken:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the Police Team  without delay, and follow their advice regarding police collection, storage and disposal.
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number, if applicable;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the student or if the police have advised not to do so;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and follow safeguarding procedures.

**Students can be permanently excluded if in possession of drugs.**

**Students will be permanently excluded if:**

- they have been suspended for being in possession of drugs previously or,
- they have been suspended for being involved in a drug / alcohol related incident previously or
- they are found selling or supplying illegal drugs

**Students will be excluded if:**

- they are found to be under the influence of a drug or
- found in possession of a drug for the first time or
- involved in a drug/ alcohol incident

Responses and sanctions will take into account:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned
- the short and long term welfare of other students
- guidance in DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001-2012) consistency
- the published school rules, codes and expectations

**Advice, Intervention and Guidance**

Parents/carers will be informed of the counselling and support services available within Croydon and supplied with relevant names and telephone numbers, and advised, if appropriate, to seek medical advice and/or accept a referral to a drugs support organisation.

The school will expect parents/carers to seek help from these services on behalf of the student and his/her family.

If a student needs to take any medication, parents/carers must inform the school Medical Officer in writing. The medication must be in a clearly marked container, including dosage and time of administering. These are locked in a secure cupboard and the key is held by the Medical Officer.

**Responding to Media Enquiries**

The Principal will respond to any media enquiry regarding, for example, a drug incident in school. When an incident has occurred, the Croydon Emergency Action Plan for Schools will be followed.

**Links to Pastoral Systems and Community Services**

- Students can be signposted to various internal and external support services through PD lessons**,** assemblies, school council, information boards, Heads of Year and the Attendance and Welfare Officer (AWO).

- Heads of Year and the AWO can refer students to external agencies appropriate to the needs of individual students.

**Involvement of Parents/Carers**

- Parents/carers of students involved in drug use and misuse will be supported and signposted to external agencies, ~~if~~ as appropriate.
- If a parent/carer comes on to the school premises under the influence of drugs, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will ask them to leave the premises, if it is deemed safe for them to do so. If the parent /carer refuses, the police will be called. Safeguarding concerns will also be considered and safeguarding procedures followed as appropriate.

**Definitions and Terminology**

**Class A:**

These include, cocaine and crack (a form of cocaine), ecstasy, heroin, LSD, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth), magic mushrooms containing esters of psilocin and any Class B drug which is injected.

**Class B:**

These include amphetamine (not methamphetamine), barbiturates, codeine, ketamine and cannabis. All cathinone derivatives, including mephedrone, methylone, methedrone and MDPV were brought under control as Class B substances in 2010.

**Class C:**

These include anabolic steroids, minor tranquillisers, GBL and GHB, and khat.

**Authorised Drugs:**

Principally medicines and other drugs sanctioned for legitimate use (such as alcohol stored securely for a raffle, safe storage and use of hazardous chemicals). In all other circumstances drugs are unauthorised whether legal or not.

**Volatile Substances:**

Products, often household items, that contain chemicals which, if deliberately inhaled, can cause intoxication.

**Drug Use:**

The consumption of any drug, via any method. All drug use, including the use of medicines, has the potential to cause harm.

**Drug Misuse:**

Drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.

**Drug Abuse:**

Drug taking that harms health and functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

**Possession:**

To have drugs on your person or amongst your possessions

**Supply:**

To have been in possession of drugs that have been passed to another person or had been intended for a third party

**Selling:**

To supply drugs in exchange for money or favour

Drug / Alcohol Involvement:
Being found in the company of others using drugs / alcohol; being found in possession of drugs /alcohol paraphernalia; being found under the influence of drugs / alcohol, being found to have used or ingested drugs

**Psychoactive Substances Act 2016:**

The Psychoactive Substances Act applies across the UK and came into force on 26 May 2016.

The act makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess on custodial premises, import or export psychoactive substances; that is, any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect.

**Links with other policies**

This policy links with the following policies which can be read in conjunction:

- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Personal Development Policy
- Smoke Free School Policy
- Whole School Food Policy

**Useful Organisations**

**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

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health**) is 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.
Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** is 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** is 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** is 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** is a website that 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** is 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)** is 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** is an 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** 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

**Impact**

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. As a result of the drug education at Shirley High School, our students will have access to a well-planned drugs education programme, delivered in a supportive environment. They will be aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion, feel confident about asking for help if necessary and staff will have access to high quality training and support.

Drug education at Shirley High School will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances.

The rules surrounding drug incidents at Shirley High School will ensure that students receive help and support as required but also understand that there is a zero tolerance to the possession, use or supply of drugs in our school. Students will be suspended or expelled in relation to drug related incidents in school.

We want all at SHS to believe in and maintain the values of our school:

