



# Carshalton High School for Girls

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## Drug Prevention Policy

Reviewed and Agreed by Carshalton Local Governing Body:

Oct 2021

Next Review:

Oct 2022

Policy Notes may be subject to review and revision at any time by the Carshalton Local Governing Body notwithstanding that the next review date has not been reached.

Review dates are for guidance only and whilst the intention is always to arrange reviews within the stated time frame all Policy Notes will remain in force until this has taken place and been formally approved by the Carshalton Local Governing Body.

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## **1. Statement of Intent**

This drugs policy covers not only illegal drugs (such as cannabis, heroin and ecstasy) but legal ones too, like alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and drugs sold over the counter or provided on prescription.

Although the majority of young people of school-age do not abuse drugs, all students could be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Such experiments may lead to serious and far reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For children and young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

## **2. Purpose**

Carshalton High School for Girls has a whole-school approach to drugs as part of its commitment to being a healthy school. The policy aims to ensure procedure is in place to enable students to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. This will be done by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing students' confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

The appendices to this policy name some of the relevant drugs and set out the procedures agreed by the Governing Body to be followed when any misuse has been identified. To protect the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, drugs must not be possessed or bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when students are on school visits. The policy and procedures apply to all adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions will be made for students and staff who need to take prescribed medicines.

## **3. Terminology**

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs. (See Appendix 1 for a full list of drugs).

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and e-liquids, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

## **4. Boundaries**

The possession or use of prohibited substances on the school site is absolutely forbidden.

The "school site" (as defined) will apply in the following situations:

- All school grounds, inside and outside the school designated buildings
- Other designated premises, if students are part educated at off-site/alternative institutions
- Educational trips and journeys (residential and non-residential)
- Work experience placements

Students returning to the school site who are suspected to be under the influence of substances taken whilst off site are also included under this policy.

## 5. Drugs Education

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE, Personal Development Programme and Citizenship that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Other subjects also provide opportunities that promote and support drugs education.

Drugs education will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues linked to drug use, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- Seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

## 6. Roles and responsibilities

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- The Senior Leadership Team have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy
- A planned drug education programme is provided as part of the curriculum, that enhances knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills
- Teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents
- Students are aware of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them
- Clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents
- Those students who have a concern about drugs are provided with support
- Sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's Good Behaviour policy
- The school actively co-operates with external agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education

All **staff** are expected to:

- Report incidents of drug misuse to a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Year Leader
- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

All **teachers** are expected to:

- Implement the drug education programme and attend associated training to increase their understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising personal skills to resist peer group pressure, and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Widen their own and the students' understanding of related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS

**Students** will be expected to:

- Follow the school rules
- Alert the staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the school site

**Parents/Carers** will be encouraged to:

- Endorse the school's approach to drugs education
- Work in partnership with the school to overcome the misuse of drugs

The **Governing Body** will ensure that:

- The school does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, consumption or supply of any controlled drug in addition to solvents, alcohol and tobacco
- The school, parents and external agencies work together to support any student involved in drug abuse
- The governors' Behaviour and Exclusion Panels understand how to deal with drug-related procedures

## **7. Monitoring and evaluation**

The Local Governing body will receive an update in January each year on the number of drug related incidents and the outcomes of any disciplinary proceedings.

These will be analysed by year group and ethnicity and compared with previous years if applicable.

## List of Relevant Drugs

### Illegal drugs include:

- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Cannabis (any form e.g. hash, grass, pot, marijuana, dope, oil)
- Ketamine
- Ecstasy / MDMA
- Cocaine
- Crack
- Hallucinogens: natural
- Hallucinogens: synthetic
- Heroin
- Opiates
- Muscle-building steroids
- Methedrone (Miaow)
- Nitrous Oxide
- Tranquillisers

Class	Drug	Possession	Supply & Production
A	Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth)	Up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both
B	Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (e.g. mephedrone, methoxetamine), ketamine	Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
C	Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), piperazines (BZP), khat	Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both

Class A, B and C drugs are termed as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, with Class A being those considered most harmful.

### Legal drugs include:

- Alcohol
- Prescription drugs
- Solvents
- Tobacco
- E-cigarettes and E liquids (vapes)
- Poppers (Possession is not illegal but supply can be an offence)

For further information please visit the 'Frank' website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

### The Management of Drug-Related Incidents

#### Legal Considerations

The school has "in loco parentis" responsibilities to individual students and the whole school community. The school should consider if a student is at risk of significant harm and if there are any Child Protection issues. The advice of Social Services should be sought, where appropriate, usually through the Designated Child Protection Lead. The school must always act within the law and this position must not be compromised.

The school will always co-operate with the police investigating drug related incidents. When the police ask for names and addresses of parents and/or students, this would normally be dealt with by the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteachers or a delegated member of staff.

The procedure is to:

- Contact the parent/carer and inform them of the incident
- Inform the parent/carer that the police wish to contact them and have asked for their address and phone number
- Explain that the school is obliged to co-operate with the police
- Inform the parent/carer that they are being given the opportunity to contact the police themselves and give the name and number of the investigating officer
- Be clear that if they do not do so, that the school will be obliged to give the information to the police

If every reasonable effort to contact the parent/carer has been made, but without success, the address and telephone number should be given to the police. This protocol will apply in any instance where the police wish to talk to a member of the school, not solely for those incidents which are drug related. The school will make an independent decision on its response to any incident and, taking account of the circumstances, decide if a disciplinary and/or counselling approach is required.

#### Emergency

When a person has lost consciousness as a result of drug or alcohol use, or has gone into coma through overdosing the following action should be taken:

- Send for staff with first aid qualifications and for a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- Remain calm and do not leave the person alone
- Place the person in the recovery position if qualified to do so, or await the arrival of a member of staff with first aid qualifications
- If possible, identify the substance which has been used and collect any evidence e.g. tablets, bottles, syringes etc.
- Notify the Headteacher as soon as possible
- The first aider will decide if an ambulance needs to be called
- Contact parent/guardian/next of kin when destination of ambulance is known
- Write a report of the incident on CPOMS
- Fill in an accident report form
- Inform the Designated Child Protection Lead

In the event of a student needing to go to hospital they will normally be accompanied by an appropriate adult, preferably a member of staff with a first aid qualification.

Where a person is **intoxicated but conscious**:

- Establish the frame of mind and physical condition without raising anxieties or causing confrontation
- Sit the student in a quiet room, send for a qualified first aider and a member of the Senior Leadership Team or get the student to the medical room as soon as possible
- Ensure another member of staff is present to support
- Ensure good ventilation
- Help calm the student if they are distressed
- Be aware of deterioration or a change in the physical appearance or demeanour of the student
- First aid should be administered by a qualified member of staff
- If a student is involved contact parents/carers

Should either of the above apply to staff, the action should be the same but the Headteacher must be informed immediately. If the incident is the result of misuse of drugs by a member of staff, the Staff Disciplinary procedures will be initiated immediately.

### **Students and Legal Drugs**

Any infringement of the drugs policy with regard to legal drugs will be dealt with through the normal procedures of the school Good Behaviour Policy. An incident will be fully investigated by the Year Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team and then the appropriate sanction applied at the discretion of the Headteacher or delegated member of the Senior Leadership Team. Support may also be put in place for the student if felt appropriate, either from in-house support structures or by using external agencies. Referrals to these agencies will depend on the particular nature and seriousness of the incident.

### **Students and Illegal Drugs**

#### ***Possession***

When a student is discovered to be using or holding a substance which is not permitted on the school premises, which is an illegal substance, if it is not clear or known what the substance is, the following procedure should be followed until the nature of the substance can be ascertained.

- The student should be approached and either escorted to a Year Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team should be sent for. If possible, the substance(s) should be confiscated and stored securely, put into a plastic bag with details of the time and date when found, and if known, who was in possession
- Those involved should be interviewed and if there is any doubt about the authenticity of the drug/substance obtained, the police, or other agencies (e.g. Drugs Helpline), might need to be contacted for advice

When the substance is an illegal substance, the matter will be referred to the police as soon as the full extent of what has occurred is known, and the school will support the police to deal with the matter as a criminal offence as well as an infringement of school rules.

Following investigation by the school and/or the police, a decision will be made with regard to the appropriate action to take. If the child has brought an illegal substance into school, and been caught in possession, action may include exclusion, possibly permanent exclusion, but this will be at the discretion of the Headteacher. Referral may also be made for support or counselling.

Where a student is found to have been dealing or supplying others, the school will implement a zero tolerance approach and that student will be permanently excluded.

The school will decide when and how parents/carers are to be informed, taking into account whether there are student/family welfare or child protection issues and if a social worker or other professional needs to be consulted.

### **Searching and Confiscation**

All staff have the **right to search** a student if they have reasonable grounds for suspicion (in accordance with the DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice, February 2014). Good practice suggests that a member of staff should have at least one other member of staff with them before they undertake a student search. As with the power to search for weapons, the school would prefer to have the student's consent but this is not a requirement when dealing with a specific items as outlined in DfE document.

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 allows an individual to take possession of an illegal substance to prevent someone else committing an offence. Any substance found on a member of staff or student should be given immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will place the substance in an envelope and in the school safe until it is collected by the police.

### ***Disclosure of Information***

When a student discloses to a member of staff that she has been using drugs, the following procedures should be observed:

- Listen to what the student has to say
- Never promise confidentiality to a student
- Bear in mind the likely desire of the student for total confidentiality and react positively to this expression of trust, but be clear that you are unlikely to be able to keep this matter confidential because of your professional role
- Remind the student of the limits of confidentiality and explain this clearly
- Consider legal and child protection issues
- Where a student discloses that parents, guardians, carers, relatives, friends are misusing/selling drugs, alcohol, solvents, the member of staff should discuss this with the Child Protection Designated Lead in the first instance, and consider how the student should be supported

Where a parent discloses that a student may be using drugs or is in possession of drugs, the member of staff should discuss this with the Designated Child Protection Officer in the first instance. Advice should be sought from professional associations if any member of staff feels themselves to be at risk through disclosure to them.

### **Conclusion**

For any drug-related incident, the utmost priority should be placed on safety, meeting medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help. Outlined above is a range of responses to drug-related incidents. Responses will balance the needs of the individual against the needs of the whole school community, and incidents will be carefully investigated. The key issue is that the school must take a stance on promoting the health and wellbeing of everyone in the school community, and it is the responsibility of all staff to do so.