Streatham & Clapham High School

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

September 2026

Person(s) responsible for this policy		**Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)**	
Last review by	**M Furborough**	**Review date**	**Sept 2026**
Date of next review		**September 2027**	

Introduction

Drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on personal health, wellbeing and academic achievement, and potentially a wider detrimental effect on families, the community and society as a whole. Streatham & Clapham High School has an important role to play in drug prevention and education, as well as helping those who misuse drugs, or are at risk from drug misuse.

In accordance with the school's and the GDST's Drugs and Alcohol Policy, the school aims to:

- Create an environment which engenders safety and wellbeing for all members of the school community
- Provide pupils with an up to date, relevant drug education programme
- Manage drug-related incidents effectively, in accordance with the law and best practice
- Have in place clear disciplinary procedures relating to drugs
- Provide pastoral care and support for pupils affected by or at risk from drugs
- Ensure that staff have the confidence to contribute to drugs education and deal with drug related incidents
- Work in partnership with parents, the school community, and other agencies, including the police, in relation to the above aims.

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils at all times whilst on school premises, near the school premises, travelling to and from school, within the school day during term time and at other times when wearing school uniform, on school visits, residentials, and work experience.

The policy may also apply entirely outside of the school context, where it is likely that there will be an impact on the welfare of members of the school community, or on the ethos or reputation of the school.

Key members of staff

- Cathy Ellott (Head) and Megan Furborough (DSL and Assistant Head of Pastoral and Safeguarding) have overall responsibility for drug issues including managing drug-related incidents and liaising with the police, and also developing, monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- At the Senior School, Megan Furborough has overall responsibility for pastoral care and support of students within the context of the school's pastoral structure. Dior Lewis (Head of PSHCE) is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum as part of the PSHE programme.
- At the Prep School, Alex Nicholson (DSL and Assistant Head of Pastoral and Safeguarding) has overall responsibility for pastoral care and support of students within the context of the school's pastoral structure. Alice Markes (Head of PSHCE) is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum as part of the PSHE programme.

Links to other policies

This policy has been developed with regard to the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012).

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following GDST and school policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- GDST Safeguarding Procedures, including the staff Code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- GDST Fixed Period and Permanent Exclusions Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- GDST Administration of Medicines Protocol

Definitions

Drugs are defined, in line with the guidance provided by the Department for Education, as:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD
- All legal drugs, including but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), electronic cigarettes (regardless of the substance contained within them), alkyl nitrites (known as poppers), high caffeine energy drinks and other unauthorised substances
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines, and
- New psychoactive substances (NPS), formerly known as 'legal highs'. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess on custodial premises, import or

export any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect.

The use of Electronic Cigarettes ('vaping'), although not illegal, does still concern health professionals, particularly because of their largely unregulated nature and because they can act as a gateway into other substance abuse. For the avoidance of doubt, the GDST recognises Electronic Cigarettes as a legal drug.

A **drug-related incident**, for the purpose of this policy, is defined as any issue relating to drugs being (or potentially being) used, bought, sold, distributed, promoted, or held, either on or off school premises, including any disclosure, suspicion or allegation relating to drugs or any refusal of consent where, in the Head's considered opinion, the refusal is unreasonable.

Drugs Education

The aim of drugs education is to give young people age-appropriate and accurate information about drugs and help them to develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy, safe and responsible choices about drug use.

Drugs education is incorporated into the school's science curriculum and PSHCE programme, and covers:

- Information about the effects and dangers of drugs on the individual, relationships, families and the community
- The legal context, media and social influences
- Skills to help pupils keep themselves and others healthy and safe, including managing situations involving drugs, avoiding risk, assertiveness, confronting peer pressure and helping others

<u>Senior School</u>

- Each year group has a lesson of PSHCE a fortnight. In Year 10, PSHCE is taught as part of the Horizon Programme. Please refer to the PSHCE curriculum for a detailed overview of topic areas. All staff who deliver the PSHCE programme, including elements relating to drugs education, are provided with relevant curriculum support and guidance.Drugs education is taught throughout the 'staying safe online and offline' topic within our spiral curriculum.
- In Year 7, students will discuss the consequences of 'legal drugs' including smoking, vaping and substance awareness.
- In Year 8, students then begin to unpick county lines and criminal activity as well as recognising abuse (including substance) and reporting it.

- In Year 9, students will learn about illicit substances, including drug classifications, as well as the law surrounding both possessing and supplying illegal drugs as well as alcohol, risk and personal safety. They will discuss drug addiction and will be provided with support strategies to overcome drug addiction.
- In Year 11 students will recap alcohol addiction. including binge drinking and the dangers of recreational drug use in situations such as festivals or parties. They will also explore how to respond to peer pressure in these situations.
- Sixth Form education will continue to build upon thematic knowledge of a range of drugs education with the primary focus on the following topics: addiction and debt; the dangers of smoking and vaping recap; and party culture revisited.

Prep School

- In the Prep, each year group have weekly PSHE lessons. Drugs and Alcohol Education forms part of the wider PSHE spiral curriculum, following the age-appropriate progression set out by the PSHE Association. This means that key knowledge and skills are revisited and built upon progressively, with pupils returning to themes at different stages and developing their understanding as they become older and more mature.
- In Key Stage 1, the focus is on 'Medicines and Household Products' and 'Keeping Safe', helping pupils understand that some substances can be harmful and that medicines and household products must be used safely.
- In Lower Key Stage 2, pupils build on this through 'Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco', exploring how substances such as caffeine, cigarettes, vapes and alcohol can affect health and wellbeing.
- In Upper Key Stage 2, this knowledge is developed further through topics including 'Legal and Illegal Drugs', 'Influences and Pressure' and 'Tobacco, Vaping and Alcohol in the Media', enabling pupils to consider risks, peer pressure, media influence, decision-making and how to seek help.
- The curriculum is adaptive and responsive to the needs of each cohort; while the school has a planned progression, teachers may revisit, extend or adapt content, language, examples and level of detail according to pupils' age, maturity, understanding, experiences and specific needs. Teaching is therefore developmentally appropriate, factual and sensitive, ensuring that pupils receive the right information at the right stage while building the knowledge, confidence, resilience and decision-making skills needed to make safe and healthy choices.

Through effective drugs education and statutory relationships, sex and health education we hope to reduce risk and raise awareness of situations which will help students make informed choices about real world scenarios.

Management of Drugs in School

The school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug). This rule applies equally to staff, students, parents and carers, governors and those visiting the school.

Authorised legal drugs

Medicines

Where a pupil has over-the-counter or prescription medicine for a legitimate medical purpose, the GDST *Administration of Medicines Protocol* must be followed, together with the relevant school procedures relating to the administration of medicines.

Staff taking medication should refer to the GDST *Sickness Absence and Ill Health Procedure*. In the EYFS, staff medication must be securely locked and out of the reach of children at all times.

Alcohol

It is GDST policy that the only permissible alcohol consumption by pupils in schools or at offsite school events relates to sixth form pupils, who may be allowed to drink a small quantity of alcohol on specific occasions under the supervision of staff where this has been risk assessed and signed off by the Head and is consistent with the law. Exceeding this limit will be considered a disciplinary matter.

Any other consumption of alcohol at any time when a pupil is in the school's care, or consumption that exceeds that which has been agreed and provided for at a specific school event, will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Other than as outlined above, all pupils are prohibited from consuming, buying, selling, supplying, distributing, or being in possession of alcohol within the scope of this policy.

Staff should observe the Code of Conduct relating to alcohol consumption (see the *Safeguarding Procedures*).

Management of Drug-Related Incidents

Drug related incidents can include emergencies, observations and discovery, disclosure, suspicion and rumour. This would include situations such as students smoking in school, being intoxicated on school premises, dealing in an illegal substance, making a disclosure about their own drug use or expressing concern about another's drug use, on or off the school site.

In all drug-related incidents the following steps will be followed:

- Medical emergency: Consider if there is any medical emergency. The safety of the individual and those around them is paramount. The utmost priority in any drug

related situation must be on safety, and any medical emergencies should be met immediately with first aid, and summoning appropriate help, before addressing the wider issues. Anyone who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, confused, or disorientated, or who has taken a potentially harmful substance / may be under the influence of a drug, should be responded to as an emergency. If there is any doubt, medical assistance should be immediately obtained.

- Report: The incident must be reported to the Head and staff member responsible for dealing with drug-related incidents as soon as possible. Whilst staff are always willing to offer sensitive advice and support, pupils should be aware that any information about illegal activity or a safeguarding risk cannot be held in confidence.
- Assess: All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response. If there is a potential safeguarding concern, the *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy* will be followed. At this stage, the school will contact the pupil's parents unless this would not be in the pupil's best interests or prejudice an investigation.
- Investigate: The school will carry out an appropriate investigation. In addition to questioning relevant individuals, this may involve searching, confiscation, and potentially the use of reasonable force.
- Support and/or sanction: Following the investigation, the school will consider what type of support and/or disciplinary sanction is appropriate in the circumstances. Decisions about the response will depend on the severity and context of the situation.
- Refer: The police will be informed of any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain a matter for the school, although the school will contact Trading Standards or the police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol and solvents to underage pupils from local shops. Other support agencies will be involved as appropriate.
- Record: the incident will be recorded on CPOMS. Sensitive information will only be disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupils' rights and needs.

Searching, Screening and Confiscation

The school follows the procedures set out in the DfE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation. Further information can be found in the Discipline Policy and GDST guidance on Drugs and Alcohol.

Any substance found which is suspected to be illegal, once confiscated, will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time of the find and witness present, and stored in a secure location until it is handed to the police.

Support and sanctions

Any response to a drug-related incident needs to balance the needs of individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. Each case will be carefully considered, and any mitigating circumstances will be taken into account. Ultimately, the school may determine a course of action based on the balance of probabilities, having regard to the information available.

Pastoral support for pupils could include counsellor support, referral to support organisations, a structured regime in school, a supportive contract or any other strategy deemed helpful for the individual.

Anyone **using or in possession of** drugs on or off school grounds should expect to be excluded in some form. There may also be a requirement to comply with subsequent drugs testing.

Anyone involved in the **supply or distribution** of drugs on or off school grounds should expect to be permanently excluded.

In certain circumstances, the Head may agree with the pupil and her family, that, as an alternative to permanent exclusion, a supportive contract is agreed by all parties within which specific requirements are set out that will govern the pupil's continued attendance at the school. This may include drug testing or drug counselling.

Any suspected criminal offence is likely to be referred to the police. Drug use can be a symptom of other problems and pupils affected may be referred to other external agencies or support services in accordance with the *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which the normal disciplinary sanctions would not be appropriate. The school will consider the personal circumstances of pupils involved and be considerate of the wider support needs of pupils.

Working with parents and carers

Parents and carers have an important role to play in supporting their child's drug education. The school involves parents by providing details of the PSHCE programme and support activities, and periodic parent workshops on drugs and talking to their child about drugs.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug related incident, and the action the school proposes to take, unless the school considers that this would put the child at risk or prejudice an investigation.

Our school rules for drugs apply to all those on the school premises, and parents/carers are expected to adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to the school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, the school will phone someone else to come and collect the pupil. If there is a concern that the child is at risk, the *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy* will be followed.

Schools are alert to behaviour which might indicate that a child is experiencing difficult home circumstances, such as parents or carers misusing drugs. Such a situation will be considered a potential safeguarding issue to be addressed under the *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*.

External contacts

School's police liaison officer: Victor Mangsat (Met Police)

National helplines/websites:

- Adfam: https://adfam.org.uk/ - focuses on support for families
- ASH: https://ash.org.uk/ - action on smoking and health
- Drinkaware: https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/ - promotes responsible drinking
- FRANK: https://www.talktofrank.com/ - drugs awareness campaign and support / advice
- Re-Solv: https://www.re-solv.org/ - focuses on solvent and volatile substance abuse
- We are with you: https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/ - support with alcohol, drugs or mental health from a local service or online