



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

DRUGS POLICY

Aspiration – Respect – Excellence

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Author	Mr Grantham	Review Period	3 years
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Link Governor	Mr Rajantie [Chair of Governors]	Review Date	November 2024



This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding and Behaviour policies.

Statement of policy of drugs education and substance abuse

- Highdown School does not tolerate the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school or the illegal supply of these substances. For the purpose of this policy, the definition of the term 'drugs' includes medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances.
- Highdown School is committed to the Health and Safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being including enabling young people to identify appropriate sources of personal support
- Highdown School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward
- Highdown School is committed to delivering a Drugs Education Programme as part of the PSHCE curriculum for all students

In response to concerns at school, local and national level, Highdown School believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. It is acknowledged that most students will come into contact with medication or potentially dangerous substances e.g. solvents, during their life. The Drugs Education Programme is designed to broaden and deepen student understanding of the potential risks of such substances when used inappropriately and to prevent their misuse. By definition, any involvement with illegal drugs is 'misuse'. The academy takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social education of every student, and the academy will update content and practice to recognise developments and 'trends' within society both locally and nationally.

Fundamental to our academy's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents/guardians by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Although there is evidence to suggest that the number of young people who use substances is rising nationally, it is seen as important to recognise that a large number of young people are choosing not to use substances. However, for a minority, substance misuse is a nationally recognised concern. We will continue to support the differing needs of students at Highdown School.

This Policy has been written using guidance provided in the Department for Education publication 'DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools' January 2012, and should be read in conjunction with the academy's Safeguarding and Behaviour policies.

Policy aims

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills; to resist peer group pressure and outside influences
- To provide accurate information about substances (including, but not limited to: illegal substances, solvents, legal highs¹, tobacco and alcohol)
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To ensure all students are aware of the social and legal consequences of substance misuse in the school and the community
- To develop an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use/misuse
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime, sexual exploitation and other risky behaviour, HIV and AIDS
- To ensure that students have access to, and a knowledge of, up-to-date information on sources of help (Appendix 1)
- To ensure that students at risk of drug misuse are identified early and are provided with appropriate personal support, including support from the STAR centre and relevant external agencies.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face

Implementation of aims

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Highdown School delivers the taught curriculum predominantly through PSHCE, Science and Ethics. However, other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other subjects. The academy actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse (by students, Parents/Carers or family members). Visitors who support the academy in delivery of the curriculum will be informed of the values held within this policy by the PSHCE Coordinator.

Through working with the Police, or a private agency, Highdown School will welcome drugs dogs on site to support our stance on illegal substances on site. The drugs dogs will visit classrooms, meet students and search our estate for evidence of illegal substances. We will report to parents/carers following such visits.

The PSHCE Coordinator will review the curriculum annually to monitor and update information relevant to this policy. Parents/Carers will be given an opportunity periodically to attend an information evening on aspects of this policy.

¹ A substance with stimulant or mood-altering properties whose sale or use is not banned by current legislation regarding the misuse of drugs.

Responsibility for the policy

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the Policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/guardians and the PSHCE Coordinator, in charge of Health Education. Those preparing curriculum resources for learning about substance abuse will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Actions to be taken should instances involving substance misuse or supply occur

In instances involving legal drugs the parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Deputy Headteacher or the Head of Achievement. The academy will also inform trading standards or the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, vaping² products, alcohol or volatile substances in the local area. Each case will be considered individually, and in-line with the academy Behaviour policy, students will be sanctioned appropriately, and escalated if necessary.

In instances involving possession or supply of illegal substances, the Deputy Headteacher or the Head of Achievement will inform the police immediately. In consultation with the police, and if appropriate, Parents/Guardians will be informed by the Deputy Headteacher or Head of Achievement. The school will always take disciplinary action. Permanent exclusion will always be considered as a course of action.

Highdown School will not allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, legal high (banned under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016), or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, and any other relevant information, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer.

The potential use, possession and supply of banned substances by Highdown School students in the local area, and specifically when travelling to and from the academy, is considered to be bringing the academy into disrepute and such incidents will be dealt with consistently and in-line with other incidents on the academy site. This includes Sixth Form students who may have permitted absence and are off-site and in the area surrounding the academy during the day.

When taking disciplinary action the academy will consider each substance incident individually; it is recognised that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. An action plan to support the young person will be agreed if appropriate. The academy will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take, and any potential incidents previously. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other academy members and the local community.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the Media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, any serious incident is likely to generate interest from the local and national media.

² The act of inhaling and exhaling the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device

Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

The Governing Body will monitor the implementation of the policy through link governance of Safeguarding and for the Curriculum. Reporting of safeguarding and behaviour matters will be through the Headteacher's report to Governors.

Appendix 1: 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.

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) 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. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - 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 - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimize alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline - 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 (DEF) - A forum of national organisations in England which provide drug education to children and young people or offer a service to those who do. Tel: 020 7739 8494

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 77 66 00

Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

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 - 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)

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 - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Directgov Young People can help young people with information and advice on issues relating to health, housing, relationships with family and friends, career and learning options, money, as well as helping young people find out about activities they can get involved in.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm>