

Sir William Ramsay School Drugs Policy

Date for renewal/updates/review	August 2023
Named person responsible for monitoring	Deputy Head Support and Intervention
Agreed by Governing Body	August 2020

Linked policies: Behaviour for Learning, Safeguarding, Search Confiscation and Screening, Use of Reasonable Force, CCTV, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions and SEND.

External guidance documents:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20the%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges.pdf>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

Sir William Ramsay School is committed to creating a conducive learning environment based around its values within which all students have access to the highest quality of education which enables them to develop and achieve to the best of their ability.

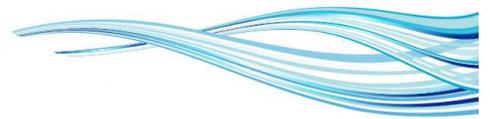
Aims of this policy:

To:

- Ensure the well-being of all our students
- Prevent the incidents of drug misuse affecting learning or leading to personal problems.
- Encourage students to refrain from drug misuse and if at risk, to seek appropriate support.
- Understand vulnerability factors and provide early support to those students most at risk.
- Ensure school staff have access to training and resource so that they are equipped to recognise the signs of substance use and respond appropriately.
- Parents are aware of the school's approach and involved where appropriate.

There can be no place for drugs on the school premises and school staff will take all necessary action to ensure the wider school community are safe and also that learning is not negatively impacted.

It is however also recognised that students face many challenges as they grow up and therefore need to be properly equipped to deal with the challenges drugs present. Teaching students about drugs is part of our programme of education. The emphasis will be on support and staff will cover the legal aspects of drugs (possession, supply, effects and



consequences), understanding health issues connected to using substances and how to resist peer pressure. The drugs education programme will be delivered through Personal, Sex, Health and Careers Education and Science lessons supplemented by assemblies and specialist visits by external agencies. Students will also be informed of where to find information and support both in-school and on-line.

It is recognised that some young people may be at greater risk of drug use and these risk factors are clearly understood by all staff. Relevant up to date information and training will be provided to all staff, with more specific training provided for key members of the Student Support Team. There are likely to be some students who experiment and use drugs. To manage such situations, we have developed clear policies and procedures. Our aim is to develop a consistent approach to dealing with and managing drug misuse. The over-riding aim is to ensure the well-being of all our students. Instances of possession, purchase, use of, supply of drugs on the school premises will therefore be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy the term drugs includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines other than those prescribed to a named person for their personal use, new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

Procedures for staff to follow in response to any drugs related incident

Ascertain on the balance of probabilities whether the student is in any immediate danger or under the influence of any substance (controlled or prescribed medications). If they are, seek medical help following school procedures. If in any doubt speak to the school First Aider for medical advice.

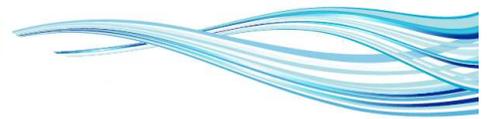
If a student has made a disclosure to you about their, or another student's involvement with drugs, contact the Student Support Team in the first instance.

If you have discovered a student or group of students with an illegal substance or with an unknown substance on the school site, inform a senior member of staff immediately.

Action to be taken by senior member of staff or any by person delegated by them in the situation

Remove and confiscate the substance from the student concerned, preferably in the presence of another member of staff. Where students are suspected of concealing drugs on their person or amongst their possessions, every effort should be first made to secure the voluntary production of any substances, for example, by asking them to turn out their pockets or to empty their school bag or locker. If the student refuses it will be explained to them that a search will be undertaken without their consent if necessary under the School's Search, Confiscation and Screening Policy. Any substance or items seized will either be disposed of safely (if appropriate) or stored appropriately in a secure location before handing to the Police.

The member of SLT will work with the Head of Year and Student Support Team to investigate the incident fully. The investigating team must refer to the NPCC When to Call the Police guidelines linked to drugs in schools.



The investigation must consider any possible safeguarding issues such as Child Exploitation and County Lines.

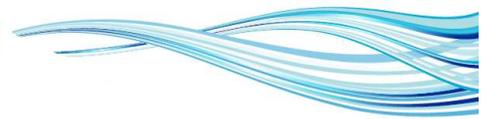
When an investigation has been undertaken and the balance of probabilities decided, a meeting will take place between the staff investigating and the Headteacher to determine the appropriate outcome.

In the event of an exclusion being deemed appropriate, a member of staff tasked by the Deputy Headteacher Support and Intervention will contact parents/carers. Parents/carers will be directed to the Drugs Policy on the school website and will be given signposting in respect of support services available from external agencies.

Dealing with drug related incidents

Any student involved in an incident of drug misuse in school will be dealt with immediately. However, there are specific sanctions and support procedures that will be used as a starting point for any drugs related incidents. The procedures that will be followed are detailed below:

Type of Misconduct	Minimum Response
Smoking tobacco products or vaping (using e-cigarettes) on the way to and from the school, including school transport and public transport.	The student will be spoken to by a senior member of staff and detained at break/lunch and letter will be sent home with support offered.
Smoking or vaping (using e-cigarettes) on the school premises or being found in the presence of those smoking.	For the first occasion a student will be detained at break/lunch and a letter will be sent home with support offered. On a second occasion an after-school detention will be given and followed up by a letter home. On a third occasion a Fixed term exclusion shall be given as this will be seen as persistent defiance of school rules. For any subsequent offences' sanctions will link with the stages of exclusion.
Possession of alcohol Distribution of alcohol	Fixed term exclusion will be issued.



Drinking (Consumption) of alcohol Solvent abuse (including glue/nitrous oxide) Substance abuse (including legal highs/poppers) Incorrect use of controlled/prescribed medicines Possession of Class B or C drugs	For any subsequent offences sanctions will link with the stages of exclusion.
Possession of Class A drugs Supplying/Dealing of Class A, B or C drugs	Fixed term exclusion with Permanent exclusion being at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Warning signs of possible misuse

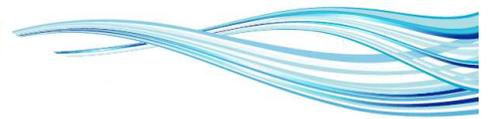
Some signs of drug abuse can be confused with signs of other problems of quite innocent behaviour. Therefore, it is important that all staff should take extreme care about not jumping to a conclusion, which might be inappropriate. However, in order to support staff in their identification of possible drug mixtures amongst students, we have grouped signs into three categories. If a member of staff has any concerns they should liaise with the Student Support Team.

Equipment that may be used for drug use:

- Grinders
- Spent matches
- Cigarette lighters
- Rizla papers
- Stamps, stickers, transfers
- Small resealable plastic bags
- Strong smelling products such as vaporub
- Stash cans – disguised as everyday objects e.g. deodorants or coke cans
- Containers made from silver foil perhaps discoloured by heat
- Small bottles or pillboxes
- Twists of paper
- Straws
- Syringes or needles
- Empty solvent containers
- Spoons discoloured by heat
- Sugar lumps
- Stamps, stickers, transfers

Physical symptoms/signs of drug use:

- Flushed face or neck



- Dilated pupils
- Small groups meeting in secretive places
- Unsteady on feet
- Drowsiness, sleepiness or slurred speech
- Sudden changes in mood/behaviour, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Unusual smell, stained or marks on clothing or body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Staining on hands

Social Presentation:

- Keeping away from other students
- Being the subject of rumour about drugs
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Unexplained loss of money or belongings from home
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods that are then sold
- Changes in attendance patterns
- Reluctance to participate in school activities
- Loss of interest in a sport or a hobby
- Sudden changes in friendship group
- Performance at school shows a marked decline
- Strangers on or around the school premises

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Support and Intervention Team through their team systems.