

The background features several large, overlapping, light green shapes that resemble stylized leaves or petals. These shapes are set against a plain white background. The shapes are positioned in the upper and left portions of the page, framing the central text.

Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Park Community School

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DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

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DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

1. Aims of this policy

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

2. Policy context

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001- 2012) which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.

The drugs education of students takes into account the requirements within statutory guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education.

This policy reflects the ethos of Park Community School as a rights-respecting school.

3. Where and to whom the policy applies

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school. The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

4. Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". Here, "drugs" and "drug education" is used to refer to:

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

5. The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in Park Community School is not acceptable. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students. The school will take action, including legal action, as it considers it appropriate in response to concerns or incidents involving drugs.

6. Drugs Education

Aims of Drug Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. The following aims of drug education at Park Community 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:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding a knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - local and national use
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions 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 and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
- 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), youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education

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Drug Education Content

Park Community School provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

- (a) The National Curriculum Science Order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education:
 - Key Stage 3 students should be taught that “conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease”
 - Key Stage 4 students should be taught that “human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors, by the use and misuse of drugs and by medical treatments”.
- (b) Personal Development at Key Stages 3 and 4 includes specific drugs education such as “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” as well as other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills.
- (c) Citizenship aspects of education at Key Stages 3 and 4 contribute to drug education e.g. by providing opportunities to understand rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities, to explore moral, social and cultural issues and to discuss and debate topical issues.
- (d) Other curriculum areas such as Science, Religious Education and Physical Education also contribute to aspects of the drug education curriculum.

Organisation

(a) **Responsibility for coordination**

The coordination of Drugs Education is the responsibility of senior staff overseeing Personal Development and Subject Leaders.

(b) **Delivery**

This is through assemblies, tutor sessions and lessons.

(c) **Staffing**

Teachers, as tutors and leaders, deliver most of the drug education programme in Years 7 and 8 through form periods. Other staff may deliver specific aspects of Drug Education.

(d) **Visitors**

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of drug education.

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(e) Teaching strategies

A variety of teaching strategies is used including teacher exposition, discussion, project learning, research, questionnaires, quizzes, distancing techniques, DVD, on-line materials, external contributors, individual and group work, peer education, case studies, media analysis, structured games, reflection. Active learning methods are used at all times.

(f) Students with special educational needs (SEN)

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

(g) Resources

A wide variety of materials is available to teachers and for inspection by parents on request.

(h) Monitoring and evaluation

This is conducted through tutor sessions and lesson observation.

Specific issues

The following issues may occur within Drugs Education:

(a) Visitors - Code of Practice for using visitors to support the delivery of Drugs Education

- Visitors are invited in to school because of their particular expertise or contribution they are able to make; invitations to visitors should be cleared with the Headteacher, Head of School or designated teacher.
- All visitors must be appropriately qualified and trained to deliver work with children and young people in a school setting.
- All visitors must have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the session and have seen and understood the school's drug education policy.
- All input to lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance.
- All visitors must be aware of the school's protocols for dealing with any disclosures or distress shown by students during the session.
- Teachers must ensure that they reflect on the learning from particular sessions with students and visitors, assessing the learning, and building skills to support and enable pupils to make healthy choices and to avoid risk-taking behavior.
- Teachers must follow-up any unresolved issues or concerns and extend the learning begun by the visitor.
- All visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for the programme.
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and students. This evaluation informs future planning.
- When a visitor is acting in their professional capacity in a consultation with an individual student, they will follow their own professional code of conduct.

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(b) Confidentiality

- Staff always ensure that students know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- All students are offered sensitive and appropriate support as needed.
- Students are encouraged to talk to their parents and carers and supported to do so.
- Information about sources of help is made available e.g., helplines.
- If there is any possibility that a child may be at risk or putting others at risk, the school's Child Protection/Safeguarding procedure is followed (see Staff Handbook). Staff will reassure students that their best interests will be maintained and any child concerned will be supported through the process.

(c) Dealing with questions

- Ground rules established with the class set clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting.
- Students' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the student concerned. Questions may be addressed individually later if more appropriate.
- Staff are given appropriate support, advice and training for dealing with questions.
- If a teacher is concerned, they will follow the Child Protection/Safeguarding procedures.

7. Management of drug-related incidents

Defining a drug-related incident

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

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia, including vapes, 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 or substances believed by school staff to include illegal or intoxicating substances in the school vicinity.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- (a) Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- (b) The Headteacher or the Head of School will be informed of the situation immediately or as soon as possible.

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- (c) Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Head of House or senior staff as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- (d) The Headteacher or the Head of School will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- (e) Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug or substance containing one, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher or Head of School, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93)
- (f) Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.
- (g) After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
- (h) Any substance suspected of being a drug or to contain one will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in a safe place.
- (i) If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug or to contain one, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. If the item is not collected the school will dispose of the item. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- (j) A detailed record of the incident will be made by the staff involved. A copy of the record will be retained in school records.
- (k) The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

Responses to drug related incidents

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident.

Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their poor choices and mistakes and develop as individuals.

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- (a) If an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to contact the police. If so, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.
- (b) If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Headteacher and appropriate senior staff) in order to decide whether others outside the school should be informed. These may include parents/carers, the appropriate personnel in the LA, children's social care and police.
- (c) Responses to / sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Headteacher, Head of School and appropriate member(s) of staff,

Possible responses include:

- targeted intervention
- referral - counselling
- behaviour support plans
- inter-agency programmes
- suspension
- pastoral support programmes
- a managed move
- permanent exclusion

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 with published school rules, codes and expectations
- consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents -
- consistency with disciplinary action for other misdemeanours.

- (d) The Headteacher or Head of School will take responsibility for liaison with the media if required.

8. Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

The school will also be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as children's social care, services commissioned by the drug and alcohol teams and, where appropriate, for the family.

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9. Tobacco and Smoke Free School

Park Community School is a non-smoking school for all staff, students and visitors. This includes all forms of vaping and e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes and vapes are not permitted to be brought into the school buildings.

Document Control Table	
Associated documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Protection Policy• Safeguarding Policy• Health and Safety Policy• Behaviour Policy• Equality and Diversity Policy• The school's Code of Conduct
Date approved by Governors	07/12/2022
Date of review	December 2025

Annex A - 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

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

Drinkaware - 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/

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

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>

Youth Offending Teams – Local 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>