

Drugs and Substances Policy

Full School including EYFS

2026 / 2027



Ibstock Place

CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY SCHOOL

IBSTOCK PLACE SCHOOL

Drugs and Substances Policy

Full School including EYFS

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils (age 4 (EYFS) - 18) and staff at Ibstock Place School (hereinafter 'Ibstock' or 'the School').

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body delegates responsibility to the Head for developing and enacting any required "Good Practice" policies. These policies are non-statutory and do not require ratification by the Governing Body. As such, the Head has delegated accountability and responsibility for the operationalisation of this policy to the Deputy Head (Pastoral) who ensures the consistent application and implementation of this policy across the School. Staff should follow the expectations set out in this policy.

1. Policy Aim

The School will not tolerate the use, misuse, possession or supply of illegal substances, nor any action promoting these items.

2. The Law on Drugs

Under the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1971* it is an offence:

- to offer or supply drugs to another person;
- to be in possession of drugs or to possess drugs with the intention of supplying them to another person;
- for the occupier or manager of premises knowingly to permit the use of drugs on those premises or to allow their supply or production.

Statutory Provision

In accordance with section 1 of the *Education Reform Act 1988*, any school curriculum should be one which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the School and of society;
- prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

This includes giving all pupils the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive programme of drug education during their school careers.

The School makes clear to all its pupils that we are committed to tackling any form of drug misuse amongst young people and any instance would be treated with the utmost seriousness. Anyone found with illegal drugs in School of any kind is immediately suspended, their parents contacted and the circumstances considered by the Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral), the Governors will also be informed. Next steps will taken with adherence to the School's Behaviour Policy, whilst also consulting this policy for guidance.

Terminology used in this Policy:

- *"Drugs"*: Means controlled drugs including for example, cannabis, temazepam, LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy, ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites and heroin.
- *"Involvement with drugs"*: Includes possession, use, supplying and dealing with controlled drugs or substances resembling controlled drugs or the paraphernalia of drugs.
- *"Substances"*: Means controlled drugs and, in the appropriate context, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, smoking paraphernalia, snus, vapes, e-cigarettes, anabolic steroids, "legal" drugs obtainable on or off prescription, and every other substance that, when abused, may damage the health, safety and welfare of a pupil. "Substances" also includes New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), sometimes referred to as "legal highs", nitrous oxide, volatile substances (including solvents and gases), and any substance used for the purpose of intoxication or mood alteration.

The policy applies whenever the School is *in loco parentis*. It will also apply to complaints or other incidents in or out of School where an individual pupil or the reputation of the School are affected, for example when one pupil is found to have offered controlled drugs or other substances to another.

Prescription medication must only be used by the individual for whom it has been prescribed and in accordance with medical advice. The sharing, selling, supplying or misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medication will be treated as a serious breach of School rules.

3. Drugs Education at the School

Young people are influenced by their parents, youth culture, the media, their peers, and others and while schools alone cannot solve the problem of drug misuse in society, drug education can be an important step in tackling it.

The School engages with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation for external support and delivery of material on drugs and alcohol awareness to parents, pupils and those in the local community. Our Drugs Education Programme (age appropriate) begins in the Kindergarten and forms a cross-curricular programme developed by teachers, the School Nurse and health education consultants. Our essential

aim is to give pupils the facts, emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, and provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

It is also our aim to be pro-active in preventing pupils from experimentation by:

- providing a programme aimed at informing pupils of the dangers of particular substances and drugs and helping them think about how to react in certain circumstances;
- having a School ethos and relationship with our pupils that is based upon mutual respect so that we can talk to them openly and honestly about drug-related issues;
- making clear to pupils the attitude and response of the School to drug misuse and of our commitment to safeguarding the health and safety of all our members;
- Giving clear and consistent advice that is truthful and encourages pupils to think for themselves and avoids approaches that are intended solely to shock or frighten.

EYFS and Pre-Prep

At EYFS and Pre-Prep, children are taught to:

- know and understand that substances can be harmful if not used properly;
- know and understand the simple safety rules required for medicines;
- know about the dangers of household chemicals;
- know which medicines are good or bad;
- know the some of the effects of putting drugs into our bodies.

The Prep School

The Drugs Education Curriculum is delivered through the PSHE curriculum in class and through assemblies. Staff recognise their role in laying the foundations for preventing the misuse of drugs both legal and illegal and do so through circle time, stories, play, games and songs. The School Nurse also talks to the children about medicines, topics are revisited and the teaching is developmental.

In the Prep School children are taught to:

- know and understand the affects of smoking and alcohol;
- know and understand what constitutes an illegal drug and their affects.

The Senior School

The drugs education programme is, in part, delivered through the Tutorial/Foundations Programme. The Head of PSHE co-ordinates the work of Heads of House and House Tutors who work with the support of the School Nurse and health professionals.

Drugs Education in Senior 8 is presented by the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. Our focus at this time is on developing an understanding of risks associated with alcohol and tobacco, and an appreciation of 'harder' drugs. Through role-play, pupils are encouraged to place themselves in difficult hypothetical situations and asked to consider the consequences of particular actions. We promote their skills in exercising choice and the concept of harm minimisation.

The topic of drugs is revisited in Senior 9 again in conjunction with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. The topic of drugs is revisited in a presentation about drugs and the law. A Police Officer delivers this talk when possible. There is also a session that focuses on alcohol and the dangers of drinking at a young age.

School will, when deemed necessary or desirable, arrange information evenings for parents to support the pupil learning identified above. Such evenings will be open to the parents of pupils across a range of year groups.

Our work with older children is tailored to the needs of the year group and individuals concerned. Senior 11 – Upper Sixth Tutors will discuss drugs with their Tutees when the issue is raised in the media, for example. The issue might also form part of a S11 and Sixth Form Assembly/speakers programme.

Subject areas contribute to our Drugs Education Programme to provide learning within context, for example:

- In PE lessons, pupils are involved at all kinds of levels in promoting health and fitness.
- Senior 11 Biology pupils study a topic on the respiratory system where they research the biological consequences of smoking on the lungs and the circulatory system.

Parents are informed of the drugs education provided by the School. Evenings for parents to discuss the potential impact of drugs on young people are organised by the Deputy Head (pastoral) from time-to-time. Parents are also invited to contact the School Nurse if they would like further information or advice.

4. Our Advisory Role

Our policy at Ibstock Place School is to encourage pupils to discuss any anxieties about drugs or substances with a member of staff, the School Counsellors or the School Nurse. Information relating to drug-related concerns will be handled sensitively. However, staff cannot guarantee confidentiality where there are safeguarding concerns, criminal offences or risks to the health, safety or welfare of a pupil or others.

Parents are asked to inform the Head if they have any reason to think their son or daughter may have been involved with drugs or other substances at School or outside School at any time. It is important that parents should not feel they have a conflict of interests in this respect.

5. School Rules

The School Rules state:

- Smoking, the consumption of alcohol or narcotics and any form of gambling are forbidden.
- Tobacco and smoking paraphernalia including shisha pens, snus, vaping devices e-cigarettes, alcoholic drinks, narcotics, NPS' dangerous substances, fireworks, offensive objects and pornographic images are prohibited. School has the power to search a pupil's possessions for these prohibited items.

6. Investigation

The School will investigate any credible rumour about involvement of pupils with drugs or substances. The School reserves the right to invite a drugs dog and handler to the campus as part of the School's ongoing efforts to prevent drugs from coming onto the School site.

Any incident involving drugs or substances will be considered from both a behaviour and safeguarding perspective. The School will assess whether the pupil may be at risk of harm,

exploitation, criminal exploitation, county lines involvement, coercion, neglect, or other safeguarding concerns. Where appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed and safeguarding procedures followed. Parents will normally be informed of any drug-related incident involving their child as soon as reasonably practicable unless there is a safeguarding reason not to do so.

Where a pupil is suspected to be under the influence of drugs or substances, or where there is concern regarding overdose, poisoning or medical risk, the School's first priority will be the immediate safety and welfare of the pupil. Appropriate first aid, medical assistance and emergency services will be sought without delay where necessary.

The School Recognises the Powers given to Head Teachers outlined in *Screening, searching and confiscation; advice to Schools (2023)* to search a pupil and his or her bag and locker with or without consent.

Should it become apparent to the School that a person's health was being put at risk from drug misuse outside School, the Head would ask to see the parents with the pupil so they are aware this activity is taking place, to warn of the risks in terms of the law and health, and to offer advice and support as needed in each individual case.

The investigation may involve segregating a pupil for no longer than necessary, asking him or her questions, asking him or her to give a written account of particular circumstances, and taking possession of property for analysis.

Investigations will be conducted fairly and in accordance with natural justice. "Police station" procedures will not be used. The pupil will have reasonable access to a telephone, toilet, food and drink and will not be left unaccompanied for long periods of time.

Interviews will normally be conducted by two of the Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral), Head of Lower/Middle School, Deputy Head (academic) and Head of Sixth Form. The pupil may be accompanied at interview by a member of staff. Sources of information will not normally be disclosed. Parents will be kept informed so far as practicable. A written record will be maintained of drug-related incidents, investigations, searches, outcomes, sanctions and any safeguarding actions taken. Records will be kept securely in accordance with the School's safeguarding data protection obligations.

Any suspected controlled drugs, drug paraphernalia or unidentified substances will be securely stored and disposed of in accordance with current government guidance and, where appropriate, handed to the police as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Sanctions

The School will adhere to its Behaviour Policy when addressing issues involving Drugs and Substances.

In any case where a child is removed from School, access to professional support and advice is made available to parents. The School also acknowledges that in addition to any disciplinary response, the School may implement a programme of pastoral support, monitoring, counselling, education, behaviour targets, medical referral or external specialist intervention where this is considered appropriate.

The School may deem it appropriate to involve the Police and/or Children's Services.

8. Review of Decision

A decision to expel or require a pupil to leave will be subject to review by a panel of Governors upon written request made by the parents within fourteen days of the decision in accordance with the *Expulsion, Removal and Review Procedure* and the *Complaints and Concerns Policy*.

Queries

Queries on this policy should be directed to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

Review and Verification

This policy is reviewed annually by the Senior Deputy Head