



QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL (WIMBORNE MINSTER)

Drugs Policy

Review:

Title of Policy	Drugs Policy
Review Cycle	3 years
Policy prepared by	Chris Humphreys DHT
Date of review by Academy committee	Summer 2023
Next Review	Summer 2026

1. Introduction and Purpose

Queen Elizabeth's School has a zero tolerance policy to drugs in school.

- All students will receive appropriate drugs education
- Any abuse of drugs will be investigated, dealt with, and reported as necessary to the authorities
- Support, internally, and through external agencies will be made available for those requiring it.

This Document provides the following details in respect to the Drugs Policy:

i. **Basic information.**

- a) Policy development, monitoring and review.
- b) Responsibilities
- c) Links to other policies.

ii. **Drug related incidents**

- a) Definition of an incident
- b) Investigating and managing incidents
- c) Health and safety
- d) Possession and disposal
- e) Involvement of parents/carers, police and others
- f) Sanctions
- g) Support for students.
- h) Deterrence

iii. **Drugs Education**

- a) Aims
- b) Outline of the programme
- c) Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the programme.

2. Scope - This policy is applicable to all of Queen Elizabeth's School.

3. Legal Requirements.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

4. Policy Principles and Procedures

4.1 BASIC INFORMATION

a) Policy Development, Monitoring and Review

- The policy was initially developed by the member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for this area and the PSHE Coordinator working with a group of parents and governors. It draws on national and LA guidance. It has been updated since its launch by the Deputy Headteacher - Chris Humphreys

b) Responsibilities

- Drugs Coordinator - overall responsibility for drug related incidents and policy formulation is the Headteacher Simon Firth.
- Overall responsibility for Drugs Education - Chris Humphreys - Deputy Headteacher

4.2 DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS

a) Definition of an incident.

An incident may involve:

- The discovery of a substance or of drug related equipment;
- Someone found in possession of a substance or attempting to supply a substance
- Reports, suspicions or rumours of drugs within school.

b) Investigating and Managing incidents

Responding:

Each drug-related incident must be treated on an individual basis. Information on this can be found in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy

Staff have statutory powers to search a pupil, their possessions and their lockers if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a restricted item. Further information regarding this is in the Behaviour and discipline policy

Recording:

The school keeps a confidential central record of drug-related incidents. This provides a means to track incidents and monitor responses. This is done using the School's Behaviour and discipline Policy

c) Health & Safety

- Where the health and safety of a student is at immediate risk the safeguarding team will be notified and a variety of support mechanisms offered for all involved.
- In the case of a medical emergency, any substance found should be given to paramedics or other attending medical staff
- Any drug-related equipment should be disposed of in line with the school's health and safety procedures. Staff should report any finds to a member of the Leadership Group.

d) Possession and Disposal

It is normal policy at QE to inform the police and seek guidance if any substance is found.

e) Involvement of Parents/Carers, Police and others

In law, schools are not legally obliged to inform parents where they suspect drug use. The school, however, acknowledges the importance of working closely with parents/carers on this issue and will involve them directly in any incident. Similarly, the school acknowledges the importance of working closely with the police. It is the school's policy to involve the police in proven incidents. The school must pass any Controlled Substances, if found, to the Police as soon as possible. Discretion will be used concerning the involvement of police in incidents involving suspicion.

f) Sanctions

Sanctions appropriate to the incident will be applied in line with the Behaviour and discipline Policy. These will be based on an assessment of the nature and circumstances of the incident. The school, however, regards drug-related incidents as extremely serious and any proven incidents of possession or supply will normally lead to either fixed term or permanent external exclusion.

g) Support for students

The school seeks to provide support and guidance to students and their families. A range of specialist agencies can be used to offer support depending on the specific situation

h) Deterrence

The school will employ a range of strategies to ensure that the school is maintained as a drug free area. Students will also be made aware of the possible sanctions that will be taken, should they be found in possession of substances that are not permitted in school.

4.3 DRUG EDUCATION

a) Aims of Drug Education

- The essential aim of drug education is to help students develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills to make informed choices about drugs and drug-related issues.
- The general objectives involve the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills:
 - Knowledge: to increase students' knowledge, by providing accurate, up-to-date information about drugs and drug-related issues.
 - Attitudes: to allow students to explore the beliefs and attitudes of themselves and others in relation to drugs and health.
 - Skills: to develop skills for living in a drug-using society, including making informed choices, communicating, being assertive and resisting pressures to behave in ways which may be damaging to health.

b) Outline of the programme

The core PSHE programme is now organised within tutor time. The programme also incorporates elements of the Citizenship programme of study. Furthermore, our status as an

accredited Healthy School and our work towards Healthy Schools Plus includes a continuing commitment to Drug Education within PSHE and C4L.

NB The details of the program can vary slightly each year in response to the specific needs of particular year groups.

c) Monitoring + Evaluation

- to monitor the planned programme [Assistant Headteacher and C4L Coordinator].
- to assess quality of learning [House Office and Tutor feedback] and contribution of outside agencies [student evaluations/staff feedback]
- to evaluate the Drug Education programme [Deputy Headteacher].

d) Review

- review of Drug Education programme [Deputy Head and C4L Coordinator) and materials/resources [students and staff]
- meeting of the Deputy Headteacher [or other school representative] with the appropriate local agency representative to review programme.
- staff will be offered training on drugs awareness as part of the Continuing Professional Development programme.

5. Links and References

Links to other policies.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour and Discipline Policy and the school's guidance on Health and Safety.