



*Tomlinscote School
Sixth Form College*

A Specialist Language College

Drugs Policy

Policy Type:	Mandatory
Approved By:	Teaching and Learning Committee
Effective From:	June 2017
Revision Date:	June 2020

Tomlinscote School

Drugs Policy

Definition:

Drugs are defined as 'a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). This includes: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, illegal drugs medicines, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances.

Aims:

- To safeguard the health and safety of the students
- To safeguard the health and safety of the staff and visitors to the school
- To provide a structure for the development, implementation and monitoring of a drugs education programme
- To ensure that drugs administered for treatment purposes, on the school premises, are managed in the best interests of those involved and that records are kept and maintained
- To state the actions to be taken should a person be in possession or using illegal drugs.

Management of Drugs within School:

1. Tobacco

The school operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the school site. Students are not permitted to smoke at any time whilst wearing school uniform and sixth form students are not permitted to smoke in close proximity to the school.

Students who break school rules relating to tobacco can expect to receive an appropriate sanction and parents will be informed.

2. Alcohol

Students may not bring alcohol onto the school site or be under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol should not be consumed on the school site without the express permission of the Interim Principal. Staff responsible for supervising students on trips, visits and extra - curricular activities during the school day should not consume alcohol unless 'off duty'. Please refer to separate guidelines for staff and students on residential trips and exchanges (appendix 1).

Students who break school rules relating to alcohol can expect to receive an appropriate sanction and parents will be informed.

Solvents

The school will use substances in accordance with COSHH regulations and within the classroom with care. Students are not allowed to bring aerosols cans into school and parents will be informed if there is any suspicion of misuse of any solvent or similar substance.

Students who break school rules relating to solvents can expect to receive an appropriate sanction.

3. *Illegal substances*

If an illegal substance is in a students' possession whilst on the school site the students' parents will be informed and the student will be excluded from school pending an investigation. The school will consider each drug incident separately and will balance the best interest of the student concerned with those of other students. Incidents of possession of drugs or suspected use of illegal drugs will always be reported to the police by the Interim Principal. Permanent exclusion will remain as a possible course of action for repeated offences or for a student caught supplying drugs.

It is school policy to inform parents of any allegations/rumours of drug involvement by their son/daughter.

Authorised members of staff have the power to search a student if they have reasonable grounds for believing a student is in possession of prohibited items. These members of staff are authorised by the Interim Principal.

If a controlled drug is confiscated there will always be a second adult witness present throughout the search, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time of confiscation and name of witness present. The sample will be stored in a secure location with access by only senior members of staff.

Drugs Education

The drug education programme will take place through the PSE programme and tutorial activities. This programme will:

- a. Provide accurate information about drugs and their effects;
- b. Develop self – esteem;
- c. Encourage responsible behaviour;
- d. Emphasise the impact on health;
- e. Challenge attitudes to illegal drugs;
- f. Explore social issues such as crime and damage to relationships and;
- g. Explore health issues.

External contributions may be used to support the drug education programme that works alongside the teachers.

Confidentiality

Confidential notes indicating specific medical issues are provided for staff information and reflect the information provided by parents/carers. Further detail is kept in a file by the Child Protection Officer.

Links with other policies

1. Behaviour and Discipline and;
2. Pupil Medication in school document.

Supporting Documents:

DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for School January 2012 and;
DfE Drug Strategy 2010.