



DRUGS POLICY

Reviewed: November 2021

Review date: November 2022

Person Responsible for policy: NJW



1. Introduction

Droitwich Spa High School is situated in the north of Worcestershire, 7 miles from Worcester. It is located in a semi-rural area but is within easy reach of Birmingham. It would be surprising, given its geographical location, if Droitwich Spa was immune from the trade in illegal drugs which is so much a feature of certain sections of the Worcester city and Birmingham youth sub-culture. It would be irresponsible of Droitwich Spa High School not to be aware of the threats and dangers posed by the all too easy availability of drugs in Droitwich, Worcester or Birmingham. Of equal concern is the impact and effect of socially acceptable drugs such as tobacco and alcohol on its students. With this in mind, the School Drugs Policy has been formulated.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Safeguarding Policy and First Aid Policy.

2. Drugs

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act 1971, it is illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (e.g. possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). Solvents are dangerous substances as well. Under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1965, it is illegal for anyone to supply or offer to supply a substance if they know or believe that the substance being supplied will be inhaled by a person under 18 for the purpose of intoxication. Paradoxically it is not actually an offence to inhale solvents for the purpose of intoxication. However, the police are normally able to deal with such offences under public order provisions.

Aims

- to ensure that Droitwich Spa High School is free from illegal drugs (and solvents)
- to educate students on the effects of drugs (and solvents) on the mind and body
- to provide opportunities for students to practise the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs
- to promote the individual's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth
- to explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- to enable parents to acquire knowledge and support

Any student involved in illegal drugs when he/she is under the School's authority can expect to be excluded from school or serve time in the Re-Focus room. The police will be informed. Being under the School's authority means:

- on the way to and from school
- throughout the School day, whether on or off the premises



- whenever he/she is involved in any activity organised by the School
- whenever he/she is identifiable as a member of the School

In addition, where it has been brought to the attention of the Headteacher that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the school reserves the right to exclude him/her.

3. Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping Products

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society. The school policy on smoking aims to give students the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike, that non-smoking represents the norm in society and that it receives support from the School and staff. It is an offence for children under 18 years to be sold tobacco products. Since 2015 it has also been an offence for electronic cigarettes or vaping products to be sold to children under 18 or bought on their behalf.

Aims

- to ensure that cigarette smoking/vaping is not tolerated at the school
- to educate students as to the immediate dangers of smoking/vaping
- to encourage those students who do smoke to break free from the habit

Smoking, vaping or being in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products, is prohibited when a student is under the School's authority.

Students found smoking, vaping or in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate punishment administered. Subsequent offences may result in exclusion. For a persistent offender the Headteacher reserves the right to impose a permanent exclusion.

4. Alcohol

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents arises. The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

Aims

- to develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body
- to encourage sensible, appropriate and safe drinking behaviour
- to practise personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present



- to educate the students as to the place of alcohol in the political, social and economic environment in which it exists.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited:

- in school buildings or grounds
- when under the authority of the school, in public houses and other licenced premises and whenever prohibited by law
- whilst on school outings and trips

Students found in possession of alcohol or using it, whilst under the authority of the School can expect to be excluded or to spend time in the Re-focus room.

5. Support for parents

From time to time the school will arrange sessions in which information about illegal drugs and their use will be presented, as well as on tobacco and alcohol. Parents will be contacted if the school suspects that their son/daughter is using drugs outside school. In the most serious cases a referral to Cranstoun (The young persons' substance misuse service) will be offered to support the student and his/her parents.

6. Educational programme

The School has a pro-active policy concerning the use of illegal drugs and substances, alcohol and tobacco. This is expressed in assemblies, tutor periods, science lessons and RE lessons.

In science lessons the School follows the National Curriculum Science Order concerning Drug Education. This is as follows:

Key Stage 3

- How smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- How abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affect health

Key Stage 4

- The effects of solvents, alcohol and tobacco on the body and functions

Through Tutor groups and assemblies, the following issues are addressed:

Key Stage 3

- Recognising personal responsibility for decisions about substance use
- Knowledge about the basic facts concerning substances including their effects and relevant legislation



- Awareness of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance abuse
- The development of appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance abuse occurs

Key Stage 4

- Understanding that Britain is a drug-using society and recognising different patterns of use and their effect
- Recognising the impact of peer-group pressure on drug habits
- Individuals are responsible for the choices they make about drug use
- Being able to analyse safe levels of intake; e.g. tobacco is never safe, limited use of alcohol may be safe
- Discussing the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs, particularly smoking and alcohol

7. Possession of an illegal drug

If any student is found in possession of a suspicious substance, it will be taken from him/her. The substance will then be taken immediately to a senior member of staff. The Headteacher will be informed straightaway. The student will then be interviewed by the senior member of staff. The police will be consulted concerning the nature of the substance. If it is an illegal drug, the student will be isolated immediately and his/her parents called to the school. The Headteacher will speak with them and the student can expect to have a fixed term exclusion or spend time in the Re-Focus Room. The illegal drug will be handed over to the police who may prosecute the student. If a student is found in possession of illegal drugs on more than one occasion a permanent exclusion will be imposed.

8. Drug Testing

Where there is concern about a student regarding the misuse of drugs, it is possible, with the consent of the relevant student and parents, for drug testing to take place.

9. Selling Drugs

A student who is caught selling drugs or in possession of the paraphernalia associated with selling drugs will be permanently excluded from school



Droitwich Spa High School and Sixth Form Centre takes its responsibilities as a data controller and data processor seriously and are committed to using any personal data collected and held in accordance with the law. The schools policies, privacy notices and forms in relation to personal data are available for you to view on our web site at www.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk or by using the <https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/communications/information-management-and-data-protection/>

The School's Data Protection Officer is the *Governance Manager* who can be contacted at Droitwich Spa High School and Sixth Form Centre, Briar Mill, Droitwich, WR9 0AA or by email at privacy@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk