



DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Fundamental to Stamford School values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents or guardians, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Stamford School:

- is fully committed to the health, safety and well-being of its pupils.
- acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and, through the general ethos of SES, seeks to persuade students to come forward, if they or others feel they are in need of support.
- does not condone the misuse of legal drugs nor, the use of illegal drugs by students, nor the supply of such drugs, nor the supply of such drugs and encourages a safe and drug free environment for all (with the exception of legitimate medicinal use and the school must be informed by parents in writing).
- fully accepts its increased role of care and supervision for boarding students in this context.
- views the use or possession of illegal drugs during school time on or off the school premises, or on school activities, or the supply of illegal drugs to students on or off the school premises, as very serious matters, which must be referred to the Head for investigation and decision about appropriate action
- has a three phase policy, Education, Partnership and Sanctions.

DEFINITIONS

The term 'drug' as used in this policy includes illegal substances covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. In the context of abuse: any over-the counter and prescription medicines; intoxicating substances on which the law may be open to interpretation such as alkyl nitrates (poppers) and magic mushrooms; intoxicating substances not covered by legislation such as gas or solvents.

Over-the-Counter, Emergency and Prescription Medicines

The Stamford School Administration of Medicines Policy outlines the definition and rules for possession of over the counter, emergency and prescription medicines.

Wherever possible, pupils are permitted to carry their own emergency medicines and relevant devices or are able to access their medication for self-administration quickly and easily.

Legal drugs

These drugs include alcohol, tobacco, e-liquids of any type used for vaping, new psychoactive substances and volatile substances. Many of these substances are illegal to purchase, but can be legal to possess. There are related health and social issues associated with their use which are the rightful concern of all schools.

The Use of Legal Drugs and Alcohol:

Stamford school students are not permitted to use any legal, non-prescribed drugs:

- During school time.
- On official school activities and visits (see below).
- On school premises.
- Or off the school premises when in school uniform at any time.

The only exception to the above could be the consumption of alcohol by sixth formers when it is appropriate to the occasion, agreement has been given by a senior member of staff, and so long as the law of the land is complied with.

It is recognised that many students will consume alcohol outside school time in local pubs or bars as part of their normal social lives. Other than students who are boarders, the responsibility for students outside school time rests with parents. However, Stamford School reserves the right to take disciplinary action should any behaviour arising from misuse of alcohol bring the schools into disrepute.

Illegal/Controlled drugs

It is illegal to possess, supply and produce controlled drugs. It is also illegal to import or export controlled drugs. Controlled drugs fall into three different categories, Class A, B or C, according to their danger or how harmful they are.

Supplying of drugs will be taken as instances where a drug is passed from one person to another, irrespective of the exchange of money.

On advice from the police, if parties involved in a drugs transaction believe that the substance exchanged is an illegal substance, then the substance is deemed to be an illegal substance. This means that the school does not need physical evidence of an illegal substance being supplied, if the intent is clear.

Suspicion of misuse

Where a member of staff becomes suspicious of the misuse of drugs or alcohol, they will report concerns to the DSL/DDSL who will arrange for preliminary investigation to be conducted. If they consider that there are serious grounds for suspicion, they will report their findings to the Head who will decide if further investigation or testing is required. It is envisaged that parents will be brought into these discussions at the earliest opportunity. Suspicion of misuse may arise from:

- Behavioural signs which give rise to a deterioration in a pupil's welfare and/or performance and might include a decline in the standard of schoolwork, marked changes in mood, excessive tiredness, unexplained sores and rashes especially on the mouth and nose, a lack of interest in physical appearance and an unwillingness to participate in School activities.
- Other evidence such as the finding of drug-associated paraphernalia, behaviour on a particular occasion, presence or smell of intoxicating liquor, or other information that has been gathered.

EDUCATION

As part of the care for the welfare of its students, Stamford School believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use. It will therefore ensure that health education, appropriate to age, is a vital part of its Personal, Social & Health (PSHE) programme which supports the personal and social development of every student.

Stamford school believes that students should be in no doubt about the legal, moral, medical and social issues associated with drugs and supports the following aims in respect of education about drug use.

- To enable students to make healthy and informed choices for themselves as individuals, without influence from peers, the media and other sources.
- To provide information about drugs.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support both within school and from outside agencies.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum, internal counselling, medical opinion and external speakers. Such issues are raised in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHE courses and Science. Further opportunities to reinforce learning occur in other parts of the teaching programme.

PARTNERSHIP

Where drugs are concerned, it is vital that parents and School operate in tandem so that pupils are left in no doubt about the seriousness and illegality of drug abuse. Any student who is

suspected to be, or is found to be in possession of drugs, or using illegal or non-prescription drugs, will be referred to the School's Drug Testing Programme.

Voluntary Drug Testing Programme (VDTP)

If any pupil is suspected of using drugs, parental support will be requested for them to be put onto the school's Voluntary Drug Testing Programme (VDTP). The Head will write to the parents/guardians informing them of the situation and will recommend that the pupil concerned enter voluntarily onto the School's VDTP. The testing programme will be at the parents' expense.

If a pupil on the VDTP is found to test positive, they will automatically be entered on the Compulsory Drug Testing Programme (CDTP). Students on the CDTP will be tested at random intervals without prior notification.

This supportive approach can only be extended to a pupil if they co-operate and show a willingness to address their behaviour.

Compulsory Drug Testing Programme (CDTP)

Any student who is found to be in possession of drugs, or using drugs, will be entered into the School Compulsory Drug Testing Programme or, if parental co-operation is refused, will be required to leave the School.

Drugs testing procedures will be such that the School will be able to do an 'in-house' urine test which test for:

- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine
- Ecstasy
- Opiates (includes Heroin)
- Benzodiazepines (detects all benzodiazepines including Xanax)
- K2 Synthetic Cannabis
- Ketamine
- Cotinine (Nicotine)

Two samples will be taken at a time. If the 'in-house' sample is positive, the second sample may be sent for full laboratory testing. The testing will be at the parents' expense. Students will be supervised by a member of pastoral staff when a member of the school Medical Team administers the tests.

Alcohol Screening

Where a student is suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, or is considered to have alcohol in their body, they may be required to test using the school breath screening device. Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity and invited to attend school.

Where alcohol is detected, the student will be sent home and the matter referred to the Senior Deputy Head for the consideration of sanction.

Students suspected of using drugs or regularly drinking alcohol may may be referred to the school counsellor or external substance abuse support organisations.

SANCTIONS

Any students who sell controlled drugs, distribute or possess them with intent to supply, whether on or off the school premises, in or out of term time will be expelled and may be referred to the Police and Social Services

Students found to be using controlled drugs, whether on or off the school premises, in or out of term time will referred to the Head for consideration of sanction and may be referred to the Police and Social Services.

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ANNEX 1 - GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

Guidance relating to Alcohol

Agreement for Sixth Form students only to consume alcohol during an official school activity can be given where it is appropriate to the social nature of that activity. In such cases the leader of the activity/trip should:

- seek permission from a senior member of staff in good time
- ensure that in all cases where this involves a student consuming alcohol under the legal age, the agreements of parents/guardians has been gained
- be responsible for reminding all supervising staff that they have a duty of care and must ensure that students consume alcohol in moderation, appropriate to their age, occasion and circumstance. Supervising staff members should abstain from drinking alcohol
- be aware of regulations governing the purchase and consumption of alcohol when outside the UK.

To avoid any conflict of duty and responsibility, members of staff both teaching and non-teaching, should not socialise with students who are consuming alcohol under the legal age limit off site.

Any student presenting as under the influence of alcohol or appearing 'hungover' may be subject to breath testing procedures and sent home.

EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency:

- Send for medical help and/or ambulance.
- Send for a senior member of staff, who will take responsibility on arrival at the scene.
- Stay with the person: if they are conscious, keep them warm and quiet, if they are unconscious, ensure they can breathe and place in the recovery position.
- When medical help arrives pass on any relevant information.

INTOXICATION

If the condition gives any cause for concern, treat as emergency, otherwise take to a quiet place and keep calm.

- DO NOT leave the student alone, or allow him/her to wander.
- DO NOT leave the student under the supervision of another student.
- Send for a senior member of staff, who will take responsibility on arrival at the scene.

POSSESSION IN SCHOOL OR ON ANY OFF-SITE OFFICIAL SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Tobacco and e-cigarettes

If a student is found in possession of tobacco, e-cigarettes, e-liquid or any smoking or vaping paraphernalia, these must be confiscated and the incident referred to a senior member of staff who will inform the Senior Deputy Head.

New Psychoactive or Volatile substances

If a student is found in possession and suspected of using or having the intention of using any of the above improperly, for example sniffing glue, the matter must be referred to a senior member of staff for action. Given the level of danger posed by these, volatile substances should be confiscated and schools may arrange for their safe disposal.

STUDENT DISCLOSURE

Where a student discloses the use of an illegal drug during school time, whether on or off the premises, including off-site official school activities, staff must inform the DSL/DDSL.

If a student admits to using illegal drugs off the premises outside school time, the DSL/DDSL should be informed. This Head will decide on appropriate action.

SEARCHES

The DSL/DDSL and another member of senior staff should be informed and attend the search of student's personal property including but not limited to their bags, clothing, lockers, cars, with or without notice and without student or parental consent.

Personal searches and searches of personal property

Where a member of staff has very strong reason to suppose that a student is in possession of a legal or illegal drug, every effort should be made to persuade the student to hand over voluntarily any drugs, preferably in the presence of a second adult witness. Where the student refuses to cooperate he/she should be taken immediately to the DSL/DDSL and the above procedures followed.

Searches of school property

(This includes lockers, desks, etc)

Every effort should be made to gain the student's consent. Individuals should be made aware that if consent is refused the school may proceed with the search, if there is felt to be just cause. Such a search should be in the presence of the student and preferably two members of staff.

After any searches involving pupils, parents will **always** be informed and a written record made on MyConcern. Details that should be recorded: the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and place, who was present, the outcomes and any follow up actions.

Removing a suspicious substance from a student's possession

The following guidelines should be observed at all times. It is imperative that an accurate written record is made and preferably independently verified.

- Remove the substance and record the time, place and circumstance when the substance came into your possession.
- Take the substance immediately to a senior member of staff. Do not keep the substance on your person or in a place of safekeeping; to do so may place you at risk.
- Do not investigate the nature of the substance but do record its approximate size and appearance.
- When possible, have the recordings countersigned by a witness.
- In the presence of the DSL/DDSL place the substance in a suitable sealed container. The DSL and yourself should sign and date the package.
- In the case of discovery of sharps such as needles and syringes the School Nurse will be alerted to supervise safe disposal.

Disposal of a controlled drug

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug. The drug should be placed in a sealed bag in a locked cupboard witnessed by a staff colleague.

The Youth Affairs Officer should be informed and he will collect at the earliest opportunity.

Any medicines should be returned to a pharmacy for disposal.

Do not flush any drugs down the toilet or throw them in the bin.