

Castlefield Campus and Mead Hill **Drug Education Policy**

Date Completed	November 2024
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Review Period	3 years
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Review Date (by governors)ASc	September 2026
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Policy Statement

The aim of the Drug Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and to ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.

A drugs policy ensures that schools take a whole school approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and students, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug related incidents. Sanctions for incidents may be consistent with the school's Behaviour Policy.

This policy relates to the Behaviour Policy, Confidentiality Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

We have adopted the definition of Hidden Harm as being:

"Children and young people experiencing a level of harm because of the presence of parental substance misuse, poor mental health or domestic abuse within the family". (where substance misuse covers both drugs and alcohol).

Hidden Harm is a key factor in the breakdown of families and the circumstances that predispose children and young people to becoming vulnerable to a range of negative outcomes, including neglect, taking on inappropriate caring roles, engaging in risk behaviours, sexual exploitation, offending, poor engagement with learning and needing to be taken into care.

Incidents regarding Hidden Harm will be monitored and dealt with through the safeguarding policy.

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco, legal highs and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The schools believe that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when students are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for students who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

If pupils are expected to be under the influence or have drugs on them, the school will follow the Search, Screen and Confiscation Policy by the Headteacher or in their absence the Deputy Head.

<u>Drug Education</u>	The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drug education will: • Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills. • Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles • Provide accurate information about substances. • Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse. • Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use. • Widen understanding about related health issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS, legal highs and spiking. • Seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face. • Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support. • To understand and manage risk for Hidden Harm At the schools, drug education is taught in Science and PSHE. In PSHE the children will cover drug related topics for half a term each year including building knowledge and understanding of drugs and alcohol, drugs and the law, why people use drugs, managing risks and giving and receiving support. It is also taught through enrichment days, school nurse, Eclipse and the Police. In the main teachers teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school Drug Policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and reference. The schools actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.
<u>Smoking and Vaping</u>	The schools provides a planned smoking and vaping education curriculum as part of PSHE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Smoking and vaping education will integrate nicotine- and tobacco-use prevention education into school curricula will raise students' awareness and knowledge of nicotine- and tobacco-related issues, such as: • types of nicotine and tobacco products; • adverse health aspects of nicotine and tobacco use; • the health effects of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and aerosol from e-cigarettes; • the social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco production and consumption; • misleading tactics and manipulation used by the tobacco industry to attract young people; • the benefits of a nicotine- and tobacco-free life Staff are trained on how to implement this policy and receive additional training on smoking, alcohol, drug and vaping awareness. Recommendations, alongside schools' confiscation policy, are that any students who are found with a vape will have this immediately confiscated. Under 18's are not permitted to have vapes on school premises, due to being a banned substance

	in schools. Once a confiscated vape will not be returned to student or to a parent. This is for the following reasons: 1. School can not provide under 18's with an illegal substance 2. Many vapes confiscated are unregulated with high levels of nicotine and potentially may have other unidentified substances in them. There are vapes which have had some cases involving synthetic cannabis. 3. If school suspects that there is another substance apart from nicotine in a vape, policy states for these vapes to be immediately confiscated. We work closely with our Safer School Police Officers. 4. Recording - I would also ensure that every vape confiscated is recorded. Disposal of a vape must also be record onto internal systems, following school policy and ensuring a witness is present when they are disposed. 5. Disposal of suspected synthetic vapes should be taken from the grounds of the school by the local police, following the school's temporary possession policy. If students are suspected to be under the influence of a substance, medical attention should be immediate priority as a duty of care. 6. Disposal – North West guidance states that disposal should not be for household waste. Ideally, guidance also suggests that they can be collected and taken to our local tip or a specific agency / drop off collect point. However, apart from the tip facilities, in Manchester we do not have the facilities for a specific collection point for schools Vaping is not recommended as a smoking quit aid for people under the age of 18. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) is available for over 12s. Support for those pupils who report a level of vaping addiction varies across local authorities. This smoking and vaping policy also refers to all visitors and personnel on site. Parents/ carers/ guardians will be informed if a student is or is suspected to be under the influence or is in possession of a banned item/ substance.
<u>Managing Drug Related incidents</u>	In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know students well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the school. The School and parents can then work together to support the student involved. If a student is found to be or admits to using or supplying substances on the premises, the substance will be confiscated and the police will be informed. On every occasion the school's safeguarding team will be informed. A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved and as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police. Incidents related to Hidden Harm will also be managed in the same way. The Federation will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The Federation will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken. Regarding the welfare of staff, The Federation will follow guidance on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to

	a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment. The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, The Federation will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the students, their families and the school.
<u>Safeguarding and Drug Education</u>	Schools recognise that drug use and possession can be indicators of CCE and struggling mental health issues. School take an educational and supportive approach to working with these pupils, understanding the importance of Relational Inclusion and trauma informed responses to identify the underlying needs of individual pupils. School recognise that drug use and possession are safeguarding issues and consider each case on an individual basis, with reference to schools' Safeguarding Policy and The Trusts, Relational Inclusion Policy. <i>Meade Hill School and Castlefield Campus Safeguarding Policy – reviewed 22/12/25</i> <i>ACT Relational Inclusion Policy- reviewed November 2024</i>