

## **Drug and Alcohol Protocol - October 2025**

The following protocol is designed to ensure a safe, consistent, and legally responsible approach to suspected drug and alcohol use in school by students. It balances student welfare with safeguarding and disciplinary measures as clearly set out in the Behaviour for Learning policy.

### **1. Indicators a Student May Be Under the Influence**

#### **1a. Physical Signs**

- Eyes: Glassy, bloodshot, watery; pupils unusually large or small; difficulty focusing.
- Coordination/Movement: Unsteady standing/walking, stumbling, swaying, fumbling with objects.
- Smell: Alcohol or unusual substances on breath, body, or clothing.
- Appearance: Flushed face, sweating, poor grooming, lethargy, extreme tiredness.
- Other Symptoms: Vomiting, nausea, trembling.

#### **1b. Behavioral and Psychological Signs**

- Speech: Slurred, slow, unusually fast, loud, rambling, or incoherent.
- Inhibitions: Impaired judgment; overly friendly, talkative, argumentative, risk-taking.
- Mood: Sudden mood swings—extreme happiness, irritability, anger, sadness.
- Awareness: Confusion, disorientation, memory lapses, blackouts.
- Hostility/Aggression: Belligerent, uncooperative, poor judgment.

### **2. Immediate Actions for Staff**

- Remove the student from class to reception or a designated safe area.
- Inform a senior staff member and/or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately.
- Ensure student safety and welfare is the priority.
- Provide first aid if needed; call emergency services if medical concerns exist.
- Contact parents/carers to collect the student.
- If parents/carers cannot collect:
  - Contact police for assistance.
  - If police are unavailable, two staff may take the student to a trusted adult (vehicle must be insured/registered).

### **3. Testing, Screening, and Searching**

- Alcohol: Breathalyser test with student & parent consent. Failure to consent will be treated as a positive test. Two staff present.
- Drugs: Mouth swab test with student & parent consent. Failure to consent will be treated as a positive test. Two staff present.
- Possessions Search: This includes bags, lockers, clothing etc. If students fail to comply it will be assumed that they are in possession of a controlled substance. Two staff present.
- Screening: If students fail to comply it will be assumed that they are in possession of a controlled substance. Two staff present.

### **4. Sanctions**

In accordance with the behaviour policy, the following sanctions will apply:

- 4a. Reflect
  - Minor infringement or first offence e.g. possession of cigarette, vape or consuming a small amount of alcohol.
- 4b. Suspension
  - Repeated minor infringement.
  - Being under the influence of prohibited substances.

- Suspected of being under the influence of prohibited substances (on the balance of probabilities) including if it can not be proven due to a student refusing to be searched, screened or tested.
- Possession of a prohibited substance (mainly drugs).
- Suspected possession of a prohibited substance (on the balance of probabilities) including if it can not be proven due to a student refusing to be searched, screened or tested.
- 4c. Permanent Exclusion
  - Repeated infringements listed in the suspension category.
  - Possession of a prohibited substance (repeated or one off, at the discretion of the headteacher).
  - Suspected possession of a prohibited substance (on the balance of probabilities) including if it can not be proven due to a student refusing to be searched, screened or tested (repeated or one off, at the discretion of the headteacher).
  - Sale/supply of an illegal substance.