



ASHLAWN SCHOOL
'A High Performing Specialist Academy'

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Policy & Procedure Number	AP037
School Link	E Cheney
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Ashlawn School Substance Abuse

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Ashlawn School recognises the need to prepare and equip students for life in modern society via a programme of education that will prepare them to live safe, responsible and healthy lives now and in the future.

Ashlawn School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.

Ashlawn School condones neither the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Ashlawn School recognises the need to deal with a broad range of drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the lives of our students and others involved in the life of the school.

This policy and all consequent procedures should be followed with reference to the most recent guidelines from national government e.g. Drugs: Guidance for Schools, DFE-00001-2012.

WHAT IS A DRUG?

A drug is any substance, legal or illegal that changes the way the body works. Such substances include: tobacco, alcohol, solvents, and prescribed medicines, other legal and illegal drugs.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

- To encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour
- To enable students to make healthy and informed choices about the use of drugs through developing their self esteem, increasing their knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing decision-making skills
- To increase students understanding about the danger and consequences of drug use and misuse
- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which students can learn and develop
- To enable students, parents, carers and staff to find help if needed
- To provide up-to-date information on drugs and substance abuse

ACTIONS

- The school will provide a Substance Abuse education programme for all students. This will run in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 and will form part of every student's entitlement, mainly through PSHE/Science, Assemblies and Year meetings (HoD's and Pastoral leaders)
- The School will have a set of guidelines that clearly state the School position on the use of substances within the School and how any incident will be dealt with. These guidelines will apply both on and off the premises which also includes all off site School organised events.
- The School will actively co-operate with other agencies such as Social Services, Health and Drug Agencies and the Police, to deliver it's commitment to Substance Abuse Education

REGULATIONS

1. Only prescribed medicines may be used in accordance with the School procedure on medicine. Any such medicine must be clearly and appropriately labelled
2. Students are not allowed to bring tobacco, smoking materials, e-cigarettes, alcohol or solvents onto the school premises.
3. The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs is not allowed on the School premises and also off site situations. While obviously a member of Ashlawn School e.g. in Ashlawn school dress, students must not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes, take alcohol, use solvents or illegal drugs. Students are also not allowed to be under the influence of tobacco, e-cigarettes, drugs, alcohol or the use of solvents whilst on the premises.

SANCTIONS

Ashlawn School will consider each incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary. Should it be shown that a rule has been broken, the Head teacher (or senior staff designated by the Head teacher) will decide the most appropriate course of action, the range of sanctions include:

- Informing parents/carers
- Applying its usual range of disciplinary measures (guidelines below)
- Giving information so that students and parents can get advice/help
- Dealing with confiscated materials

ASHLAWN SCHOOL GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF THESE SANCTIONS

As a guide and given that no two incidents are ever the same these are some suggested possible outcomes for a student who breaks the rules on substance abuse.

SMOKING (Includes e-cigarettes and possession of smoking materials)

A student caught smoking will:

- On the first occasion receive a formal warning, appropriate information about stopping and detention. Parents to be informed by text/letter
- If the problem persists:
 - a letter and the aforementioned information, will be sent home to parents
 - Have the incident recorded in their file
 - The student will be excluded from school in accordance with the Governors' "Six Strikes" policy. A parent will be expected to come into school.

ALCOHOL AND SOLVENTS

A student using or possessing alcohol or solvents will:

- Have parents informed and also expected to come into School
- Have the incident recorded in their file
- Be excluded for a fixed term (either externally/internally or a combination of both).
- Be warned that any further incident could result in a more serious or even permanent exclusion
- The teacher responsible for Child Protection will be informed

ILLEGAL DRUGS

A student found using or in possession of a small amount of illegal drugs but not thought to be dealing or supplying to others should receive the same sanctions as for alcohol and solvents. In addition the Police, Social Services and Compass will be informed of the incident. A student found dealing or supplying illegal drugs will:

- Have their parents informed as soon as possible
- The teacher responsible for Child Protection will be informed
- Be reported to the Police for further investigation
- In most circumstances will be permanently excluded

APPENDIX – RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

LEGAL DRUGS

All issues relating to the possession or use of legal drugs, e.g. tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol or solvents, within the school/neighbourhood should be referred to the Head of Year.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

If a member of staff suspects a student is using/in possession of or under the influence of illegal drugs in school then they must inform the Head or other senior member of staff. (ECh, KSm, NTa & LPo)

If possible the senior member of staff should take possession of the illegal substance – this action must be witnessed. If a bag search is necessary then this must be conducted by two members of staff of the same sex as the student. If the student continues to refuse to hand over the substance then the police should be contacted and the student supervised until they arrive. The police will be informed and asked to collect any illegal substances.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy