

Shoeburyness High School

a member of Southend East Community Academy Trust



DRUGS POLICY

March 2019

Status : Recommended

Next revision due : March 2021

Reviewed and monitor by : Deputy Headteacher - Pastoral

Recommended by : SHS Local Governing Body

**Signed by Chair of Local
Governing Body** :

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy covers the use and misuse of all psychoactive substances by students. Substances covered by the term drugs in this policy include illegal drugs, legal highs, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and prescription or over-the-counter medicines (used for purposes other than those for which they were prescribed/intended).

1.1 Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

‘A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.’

The term ‘drugs’ and drug education’, unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all illegal drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Act’s amendments, i.e. The Drugs Act 2005.

1.2 Policy Statement

Shoeburyness High School has a whole-school approach to substance misuse as part of its commitment to being a healthy school. We aim to enable pupils to make informed choices by increasing their knowledge and providing opportunities for them to explore their own and others’ attitudes.

2. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the School Drugs Policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Protect and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, parents, governors, parents/carers, outside agencies, volunteers and the wider community.
- The school will play its part in helping pupils and students meet the opportunities and challenges of childhood, adolescence and adult life. This includes Health Education, an aspect of which is ‘Drug Education’.
- Enable staff to respond to drugs incidents on school premises with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved.
- In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, Shoeburyness High School believes it has a duty to educate its students on the harms and consequences of drug use and abuse. We take a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (SCOPE) of every student. Drug awareness lessons appear in every year group’s scheme of work.

- Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, we believe it is important to recognise that large numbers of students are choosing not to use or misuse substances.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs underlines the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- Work with other schools to reinforce the message that drugs will not be tolerated in educational establishments.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Shoeburyness High School believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drug and substance use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, H.I.V. and AIDS.
- To enable students to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. We deliver the taught curriculum mainly through SCOPE, RESHAPE, Science and Religious Education, but opportunities to reinforce learning occur in other teaching areas of the curriculum. Shoeburyness High School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug agencies to deliver its commitment on Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

4. DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The school will operate a zero-tolerance policy towards drug use or supply on the premises. This will include students arriving at school under the influence of substances, including alcohol

When dealing with drug-related incidents all incidents should be recorded (see Appendix 2 for a copy of the form) and the following procedures will apply:

4.1 Suspected Intoxication

If a pupil is found to be or suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, a senior member of staff will be notified and the pupil's family informed. Unless this is a persistent occurrence, the pupil will be referred to the Young People's Drugs and Alcohol Team (YPDAT) at Civic 2, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6ER. Tel: 01702 534300 for support, assessment and onward referral where appropriate. They also have open access drop-ins available.

4.2 Suspected Possession of Alcohol or Drugs

If a teacher suspects that a pupil is in possession of alcohol or drugs he/she will inform a senior member of staff.

- The person will be interviewed and a record of this taken (see Appendix 2), on condition that they are coherent at the time.
- The person will not be physically searched by staff (see point 4.4 – this will be conducted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team).
- Where necessary i.e. a refusal to comply with the school's attempts to investigate the issue, the police service will be informed and advice will be sought.
- Where there is sufficient cause to believe that the person has been involved in prohibited activity involving substance abuse the parents or carers will be informed by the senior member of staff.
- The senior member of staff will liaise with the headteacher in managing any media contact.

NB: Police attendance/Ambulance personnel may well be contacted for support.

The senior member of staff will be responsible for keeping an accurate and up-to-date record of any incidents including actions taken. The Lead Governor for Safeguarding will be informed and they will relay this information to the Local Governing Body.

If a pupil is found to be supplying drugs to others, the Police and Governors will be informed and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, the school will consider permanent exclusion and at the same time refer the pupil for support to an appropriate agency.

4.3 Suspected Supplying of Drugs outside school premises

If it is suspected that pupils are involved in the supply of drugs outside the school, the police and parents will be contacted.

(See also Appendix 1: the flowchart for 'Managing Drug Incidents')

4.4 When searching a young person with their consent, it should be done in the following manner:

- gain consent of young person
- the member of staff should be of the same gender as the person being searched
- a second member of staff should be present to witness the search
- the search should be carried out in private
- only outer garments should be searched
- anything found must be recorded and the signature of the young person should be obtained, if possible.
- Parents/Guardians of under 18's must be informed of the search – whether or not anything is found.

4.5 Handling Illegal Substances

Shoeburyness High School does not expect teaching staff to destroy illegal substances. Any illegal substances found by teaching staff under any circumstances must be handed over to the police at the earliest possible opportunity. The find must be witnessed by at least one other staff member in addition to the finder, the fact recorded and the drug held in a safe location until the police have dealt with the matter.

Be sure to include the following information:

- Description of item
- Time, date and place of seizure
- Full details from whom item seized and under what circumstances
- Details of member of staff seizing the item
- Signatures of witness(es)

Any confiscated substance will be sealed and placed in the school safe whilst awaiting collection by the police.

5. ALCOHOL

Alcohol is easily accessible and socially acceptable in most, but not all, cultural groups. Taken in excess it has been associated with a range of risk-taking behaviour, including unprotected sex and driving accidents. Young people, from an early age, develop a sophisticated awareness of alcohol and drinking behaviour.

Information about alcohol, related to the previously stated aims of the school SCOPE/RESHAPE programme, is offered as part of an ongoing spiral curriculum.

If pupils are found with alcohol in school, this will be confiscated and parents/guardians informed.

Pupils misusing alcohol in school, coming into school under the influence of alcohol or bringing alcohol into school to give or sell to other pupils are likely to receive a fixed term on-site exclusion. Serious anti-social behaviour may lead to permanent exclusion.

Pupils whom we believe to be at risk from alcohol abuse will normally receive guidance, parents will be informed and a referral made to an appropriate agency, their GP, School Nurse or Social Services.

Under the Licensing Act 1964, it is an offence to sell alcohol without a licence. This prevents the sale of alcohol at school events unless an occasional licence has been obtained under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983. It is also an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. No licence is needed by the school to offer alcohol at school events (i.e. where no sale takes place) or to store alcohol on the school premises. The school has successfully applied for an alcohol licence and as a result we have a nominated person who has got the necessary licence.

6. SMOKING

6.1 Shoeburyness High School has a non-smoking policy which does not allow smoking on the school site at any time.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death, with smoking related diseases accounting for some 90,000 deaths a year in England.

The Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 2007 has increased the penalties for selling tobacco to children under the age of 18. Young people begin to smoke for a variety of reasons, peer pressure, to feel grown up, weight control, family patterns or because they enjoy it.

Schools can influence their decision about smoking by explaining the fact about the health risks. The SCOPE/RESHAPE programme targets this aspect. It is school policy that in order to provide a healthy environment and to reduce the peer pressure, pupils are not permitted to smoke anywhere on the school site or on school trips.

Please note that the school will challenge any pupil smoking whilst wearing school uniform as this could bring the school into disrepute.

If pupils do smoke they will be warned about the health risks to themselves and others and a letter will inform their parents. Cigarettes, lighters and matches will be confiscated and parents informed.

A range of disciplinary steps may be taken, including detention, isolation or a fixed term on-site exclusion. Pupils may also be referred to the School Nurse, GP or other agencies for help and counselling.

Shoeburyness High School is able to seek advice and support external agencies within Southend-on-Sea.

6.2 Visitors

The smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, parents, staff, suppliers and repairs and maintenance personnel. There should be clearly worded signs to announce the policy. Staff will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

7. SOLVENT MISUSE

This involves the deliberate inhalation of an intoxicating substance to achieve a change in mental state.

Solvent misuse carries a distinctive, worrying and real risk of sudden death, even on first use. It raises similar fears to other types of drug misuse and may also be a 'gateway' into illegal drug misuse.

The possession of solvent substances is not illegal. It is, however, an offence to supply a substance to a person under 18, where knowingly, or where there is a reasonable cause to believe that its fumes will be used for the purpose of causing intoxication. Unfortunately, the wide variety of solvent substances in use in the home and workplace (including adhesives, aerosol gases, cigarette lighter refills, paint strippers and typewriter correction fluid) makes them easily accessible.

As part of health and safety measures, the school will take the steps to control the movement and safe storage of solvent substances on school premises.

Evidence suggests a small percentage of 8-10 year olds experiment, while 5-10% of teenagers may have misused solvent substances at some time.

The dangers and risks associated with solvent substance misuse form part of the school's SCOPE/RESHAPE programme.

If a pupil is caught in school using a solvent substance, staff are instructed to speak quietly and calmly and to immediately take the pupil to lie down in the medical room. There is a very real risk of heart failure should the pupil receive a shock at this stage. Medical attention must be sought without delay and parents sent for.

Pupils who use or supply solvent substances to other pupils, either on or off premises, may be referred to the Police or face the possibility of a fixed term on-site or permanent exclusion.

8. CONSULTATION GROUP

- Governors of Shoeburyness High School
- Staff and students of Shoeburyness High School
- Parents of students at Shoeburyness High School
- Various external agencies

- Work with other schools to discuss issues

9. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Anti bullying
- Behaviour
- Child Protection
- Education of pupils with medical needs
- Restraint of pupils

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Headteacher, in consultation with the staff, will undertake systematic monitoring and conduct regular reviews of the drugs policy and procedures in order to evaluate the policy to ensure that the operation is effective, fair and consistent.

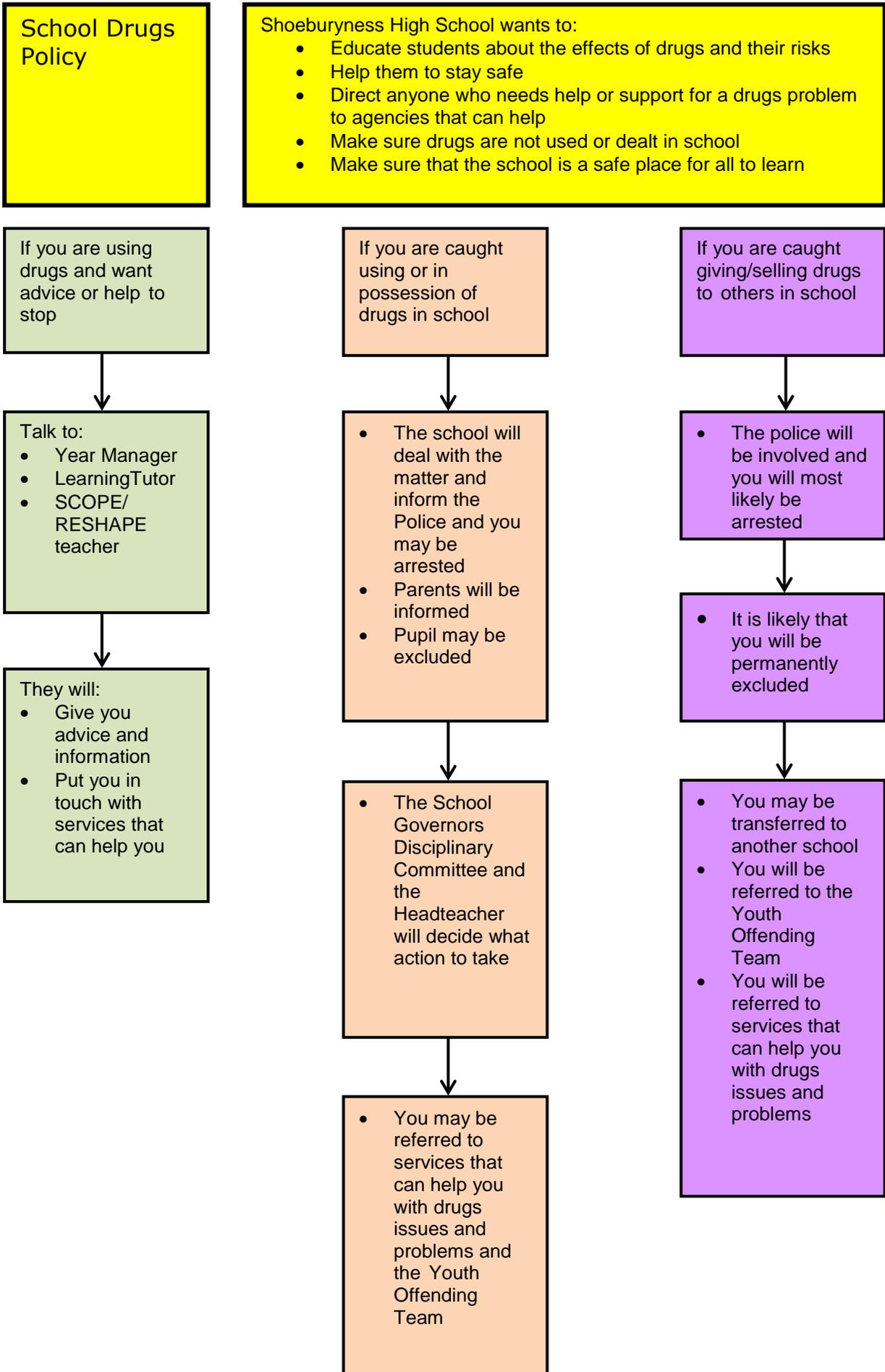
The Governing body will regularly review this policy and associated procedures to ensure its continuing appropriateness and effectiveness. This monitoring and evaluation will take place in consultation with the Headteacher, staff, students and parents.

The outcome of the monitoring and evaluation will be communicated to all those involved, as appropriate.

11. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the Headteacher and the Governing Body

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and for liaison with the Pastoral Manager, Health Education Co-ordinator, Governing Body, Parents, LA and appropriate agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.



Appendix 2: Drug Related Incident Report Form

Drug Related Incident Report Form	
Please complete this incident report form electronically, save and e-mail to the appropriate senior staff member responsible for dealing with drug related incidents	
Member of Staff:	Date Report Completed:
1. Incident Details	
Date of Incident:	Time of Incident:
Name of Pupil:	Form or Class:
Is this the first incident? YES / NO	If NO, how many other incidents:
Suspected drug involved:	Sample drug found: YES / NO
If found, where retained:	Name of witness:
2. Brief Description of Incident	
3. Additional External Support	
First aid given: YES / NO	First aid given by:
Ambulance called: YES / NO	Called by:
Parent/Carer to be called: YES / NO	Parent/Carer to be called by:
Drug Agency to be called: YES / NO	Drug Agency to be called by: