



**South Bromsgrove High**  
Inspiring Confidence Through Learning

# **South Bromsgrove High**

## **Drugs Policy**

**Reviewed by the Governing Body**  
**Next review**  
**Policy responsibility**

**September 2019**  
**September 2020**  
**Pastoral Deputy**

***South Bromsgrove High is committed at all times to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the welfare of the young people entrusted to its care, and aims always to realise its mission to provide a 'safe and supportive' environment where there is an expectation that students behave sensibly and safely. For the purpose of the policy, 'drugs' also refers to controlled drugs, including alcohol. Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for use during the school day. In these cases, the school's policy on the administration of medicines will be followed.***

### **Policy aim**

The key aim of this policy is the protection of all members of the schools community from the effects of the use and abuse of drugs.

### **The key Principals and key issues are:**

- To create a drug-free environment on the school premises and during school activities by adopting a zero tolerance policy.
- To regard possession of drugs on school premises and during school activities as a very serious disciplinary offence, punishable by exclusion.
- To deliver a programme of education and information on drugs to all pupils as part of the PSHE curriculum.
- Creating a partnership between the school, parents and the appropriate support agencies.
- Providing support for members of the school community who are involved or potentially involved with drugs **and** for those who choose not to be involved.

### **Practice and procedures in cases of drug use**

1. The possession of drugs either for personal use or for supply to others is a very serious disciplinary offence. The Police may be informed and if, after considering the evidence and circumstances, the Headteacher judges that the continued presence of the individual/s involved threatens the key objective of this policy, permanent exclusion would result.
2. A student whose behaviour is atypical and gives a clear indication that he/she is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, will be removed from lessons by a senior member of staff. Parents will be contacted and the situation explained to them. Advice will be available for parents who wish to follow up the school's suspicions. They will be asked to come and collect the student because of the unacceptable behaviour.

3. When managing drug and drug related incidents, the first concern will be for the health and safety of all involved, followed by the pastoral concerns of students.
  - The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It will seek to balance the interests of the students involved, the other school members and the local community.
  - Factors to be considered will include the age of the student, whether the incident involved one student or a group and if peer pressure was evident.
  - The fact that certain behaviour could constitute a violation of the criminal law will not in itself necessarily lead to a more punitive response.
  - In all cases the school will ensure that the student has access to professional support and advice from the relevant services and agencies.
4. Upon return to school the student will be interviewed by the Head of Year and a Deputy Head. Guidance and advice about obtaining help will be given if appropriate.

### **The discovery of suspected substances on school premises**

Staff discovering substances which are suspected of being harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation should observe the following guidance;

- Consider the possible need for first aid and follow the school's first aid procedures.
- If possible, remove the suspected substance from the location in the presence of a witness. If there is no witness, do not delay, remove the substance and take it to the Headteacher, or to a member of staff authorised to deputise.
- If a student is, or is thought to be, in possession of a suspect substance do not attempt to search the student. You may ask the student to voluntarily empty his or her pockets, bag, desk or locker with a witness present. You may not forcibly detain the student.
- Lockers remain the property of the school and can be searched with an adult witness present.
- Do not retain the substance on your person or in a place of safekeeping for a later time. Ensure it is handed over immediately to the Headteacher, or to a member of staff authorised to deputise.
- Record the time, place and circumstances of the discovery and also record the details of what was found, but do not investigate the substance.
- The Headteacher will decide what entry is put on the student's record.
- The substance should be disposed of either by handing over to the police or may be flushed down the toilet. This should be witnessed and recorded.

### **The school's aims with respect to education about drugs**

1. The curriculum will continue to educate the student body with the intent of allowing each student to be aware of the health, social and legal implications of becoming involved in the misuse of drugs of any kind, but especially those which are illegal.
2. The emphasis will be on deterring students from becoming involved and providing students with accurate factual material which will allow them to make healthy informed choices.
3. Drug education will be part of the wider theme of education for responsible, healthy living, not only in school, but as part of the community. It will be covered in a number of curriculum areas including Science and PSHE.
4. Parents will be encouraged to take an interest and an active part in their children's education in this area and will be encouraged to contact school if they have any concerns. Likewise the school will contact parents if, in the opinion of the Headteacher or the Pastoral Deputy, there is sufficient evidence to warrant such contact.

### **Objectives of the Drug Education Programme**

1. Increasing accurate knowledge, forming healthy attitudes and enhancing skills.
2. To provide appropriate opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
3. To minimise the number of young people who experiment with drug misuse and to delay the age of first experimentation for those who choose to do so.
4. To minimise the number of users who engage in particularly dangerous misuse and persuade those who are experimenting to stop. To enable users or those who are concerned about drugs to seek help.

### **Monitoring possible use of drugs in school and/or by students on the way to school**

The school will enlist the help of other agencies, such as the Police, and will use such technology as is available to survey the premises to identify any areas which are being used either for drug use or by any student who has been exposed to drugs.

In the event of a place which is connected to an individual student being identified (e.g. Kytless Alley), the student will be interviewed. The student's parent/carer will be contacted and any concerns shared. In appropriate cases, advice will be offered with respect to support which can be obtained.

### **The roles the Governing Body and the Headteacher**

The Governing Body has responsibility for the formulation of the Drug Policy of the school. The policy will be a result of consultation with appropriate stakeholders.

The Governing Body will be expected to monitor the success of the policy and to review it annually.

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that the Governor's Policy is implemented both in terms of the education aspect and the decision which may have to be made in the event of a breach of the Code of Conduct or the rules.

The Headteacher will also take responsibility for liaison with the media should this become an issue. In this respect he may wish to take advice from the LA Press Office or the Legal Department.

<b>Date Policy agreed</b>	March 2015
<b>Review Date</b>	September 2020
<b>Staff responsible for the Policy</b>	Pastoral Deputy
<b>Link Governor</b>	Alyson Jewson