



DRUGS POLICY

Aims

The aim of this policy is to:-

- Acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures on how to respond to any drug-related incident, for parents and staff.
- Ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to, and concern for, the health and well-being of the whole school community.
- Clarify support and sanctions for pupils in relation to drugs. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Definition

"Drugs" include those substances that are legal such as alcohol, tobacco, 'vape' products and solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed drugs, new psychoactive substances (NPS - "legal highs") and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

Principles and Purpose

Drug education is part of the Statutory Science Order and the PSHE Curriculum, and contributes to the:-

- Promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of all pupils
- Creation of an environment where pupils feel comfortable to discuss drug related issues.

The policy seeks to develop the following knowledge, attitudes and skills among pupils:

Knowledge

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by providing accurate up to date information about different drugs and to consider their use/misuse/harm and benefits appropriate to their defined purpose.
- To give access to information about support services to all concerned parties.

Attitudes

- To enable pupils to discuss and challenge attitudes/stereotypes to drug use and misuse in society.
- To enable pupils to discuss the role of medicines in maintaining an individual's health and well-being.

Skills

- To keep themselves and others safe.
- To recognise that their actions have consequences for themselves and others.
- To know where to go for support and advice.

This policy should be read alongside school policies on Equality & Diversity, Healthy Schools, Admissions, Behaviour, Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Anti-bullying and Attendance.

Entitlement

Drug Education

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

a) Science

The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education:

- Key Stage 1: 5-7 year olds should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.
- Key Stage 2: 7-11 year olds should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.
- Key Stage 3: 11-14 year olds should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.
- Key Stage 4: 14-16 year olds should be taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions.

Glenthorne meets the requirements at Key Stage 3 and 4 (see Appendix 1)

b) PSHE

PSHE includes topics that promote knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills to:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices.
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles.
- Provide accurate information about substances including legal and illegal drugs
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- Widen understanding about related physical health, mental health and social issues.
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate local and national advice and personal support

See Appendix 1 for a summary of PSHE topics. See PSHE schemes of work for more detailed plans of delivery.

Delivery

- PSHE teachers provide the majority of the drugs education and where appropriate, outside visitors may make contributions. Such visitors will be used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated by a member of staff. All external support staff giving presentations or facilitating workshops are fully DBS checked.
- To enable teachers to be confident and skilled to teach drug education, team meetings and appropriate CPD will be given to ensure that pupils will have up to date, relevant, and accurate information.
- Resources for classroom use are constantly reviewed and updated to ensure relevance, accuracy of information and student engagement. The school will utilise support agencies such as the LA, Police, local support facilities and health and drug agencies.

Parental Involvement

Parenting guidance sessions will include information on drugs support and guidance, as required. The policy will be disseminated annually with additional guidance for parents available all year round through the school website signposting parents to external support agencies and organisations.

Assessment

Drug education will be assessed as part of the overall provision for PSHE.

Statutory Duty of the School

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for:

- The policy and its implementation.
- Liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies.
- Ensuring that all staff dealing with substance misuse issues are adequately supported and trained.

Implementation of the Policy

Illegal Drugs

All incidents involving illegal drugs will be treated on an individual basis. In instances of knowledge of illegal drug use, production or supply on the premises and following discussion with staff members who know the pupil:

- Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil.
- School and parents will work together to support the student.
- A safeguarding referral may be made.
- A referral to the School Nurse may be made.
- The pupil and parent will be made aware of local drug agencies and helplines to seek counselling and advice.
- The relevant sections of the behaviour policy will be followed.

In instances of drug misuse outside school, the school will consider the individual circumstances and take action through the Headteacher, as above.

The school will work in partnership with the police to ensure that there is an agreed protocol for managing illegal drug related incidents. Advice will be sought to establish whether the:

- incident can be managed by the school;
- police will be actively involved;
- pupil's name may be withheld or divulged.

Searching and Confiscation

Staff authorised by the Headteacher have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, with or without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may be in the possession of drugs.

If possible, the member of staff carrying out a search should be the same sex as the pupil being searched. Also, another adult must be present during the search, preferably of the same sex.

If any pupil or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated. Confiscated items will be sealed in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find, witness present. They will be stored in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff. In the event that possession of an unauthorised drug is discovered on a residential trip, once it has been sealed, dated and witnessed, it will be taken to the nearest police station for storage and disposal.

If the drug is suspected to be illegal or an NPS, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug and record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference

number. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary.

Vapes

If a disposable or refillable vape is found which contains nicotine (or nicotine-free), it will be confiscated and disposed of safely. Parents will be informed and the school may consider a safeguarding referral, support from the school nurse or a referral to a drug support agency such as Cranstoun.

If a vape is found which is suspected to contain THC or another drug, it will be confiscated and passed to the police. If the pupil requires medical attention, the vape will be passed to the ambulance crew. Parents will be informed and the school may consider a safeguarding referral, support from the school nurse or a referral to a drug support agency such as Cranstoun.

Legal Drugs

The police will not be involved unless they are NPS but the school will retain the right to contact the police about inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils.

Confidentiality

The boundaries of confidentiality should be explained to a pupil who wishes to disclose information to ensure that teaching staff fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to child protection, police investigation and external services.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body will be involved in drug use/misuse and drug-related incidents through their responsibility for developing the school's policy and practice on drugs prevention and education and through the implementation of the school's sanctions procedures.

Sanctions and Discipline

- The possession and/or use of vapes, drugs and NPS in school, during the school day or while travelling to and from school is unacceptable. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, *or* while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines.
- The school will not tolerate the misuse of drugs by members of the school or the illegal supply of drugs.
- The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The implications of any action will be considered in the light of the whole school community. However, serious sanctions will be applied to ensure the safety of all pupils and to deter others from using or dealing drugs on the school premises in accordance with the school's sanctions procedures (Appendix 3).
- Any pupil involved in an incident involving either illegal drugs or NPS within school will be offered additional support, information and guidance on the implications of using drugs as part of the sanction.

This policy will be:

- Implemented through the on-going consultation with all members of the school community
- Reflected in practice through the regular review of the Schemes of Work

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Headteacher will monitor the implementation of this policy to ensure that the procedures laid down are reflected in practice.
- The policy will be reviewed annually and revisions made, including any necessitated by new legislation, and ratified annually by the Governors' Curriculum Committee during the Summer Term.
- Drug Education provision will be evaluated by staff on a regular basis.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following policies: Equality & Diversity, PSHE, Child Protection, Health and Safety Policy and Procedures, Behaviour, Special Educational Needs and Inclusion policies. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of this policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/residentials, etc.

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 3817 9410 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: <http://ash.org.uk>

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7766 9900 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com ; Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 963 2751. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: <https://mentoruk.org.uk/>

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044; Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Cranstoun – Drug and Alcohol advice up to 18 years – www.cranstoun.org/substance-misuse/inspire-sutton 020 8773 9393

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

Additional Information

- Sutton LA Guidance
- SCODA / Drug Scope 'The Right Response'
- DfES Drugs Guidance for Schools 2004
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012

This policy was reviewed in July 2025.
The next review will be in July 2026.

Science Curriculum

Year 8: Health and Human Body

Smoking – students are taught that smoking is implicated in a range of illnesses, they describe the effect of smoking on the tissues in the lungs and the harmful physiological effects of tobacco smoke. They also complete an assessment task comparing facts and opinions about smoking. Students are taught that alcohol alters behaviour and that excessive use damages the liver and the developing foetus.

Year 9:

Students learn about alcohol and nicotine in the B2 topic in Year 9. This is taught about half way through the year.

Year 10:

The topics of alcohol and nicotine are taught at the end of Year 10 in relation to nervous control with triple and higher combined Science students in the B5 topic.

Drug development (medicinals) is taught at the beginning of Year 10 in the B3 topic.

PSHE Schemes of Work

What needs to be taught	Timing	Delivered by	Methodology
Year 7 Managing risks. Healthy choices.	Spring + Summer Term	PSHE teaching team, specialist external agencies if available	Circle time, role play, scenarios and other activities.
Year 8 What are drugs? Why are they dangerous? Peer Pressure. The risks of Alcohol, Tobacco, vaping and other substances. Avoiding peer pressure. Effects on mental health and drug use.	Autumn Term	PSHE teaching team	Circle time, role play, scenarios and other activities. Alcohol Education Trust – 'Talk About Alcohol' resources,
Year 9 Street Drugs - Classification and Risks. The impact of addiction to drugs and alcohol. The law in relation to drugs and 'legal highs' (NPS). The support services available for students. First aid.	Immersion Day - Drugs & County Lines, including Gang Crime	Year 9 PSHE teaching team, specialist external agencies if available, eg Switch.	DVD, scenarios, role plays, discussion. Guest Speakers.
Key Stage 4 Addictions, Alcohol & Drugs – The Facts and the Risks. Binge drinking. Effects on family and relationships.	Autumn Term	PSHE teaching team, School Police Liaison Officer, if available, specialist external agencies eg Cranstoun	Alcohol Education Trust – 'Talk About Alcohol' resources, DVD, scenarios, role plays, discussion. Case studies
Personal safety, seeking professional advice. Effects of drug addiction and casual use	Autumn Term - Addictions	PSHE teaching team	Alcohol Education Trust – 'Talk About Alcohol' resources,

<p>of street drugs – revisit classification and the Law.</p> <p>Specific focus on medical Cannabis vs street Cannabis / skunk – the difference between THC & CBD and link to mental illness.</p>			<p>DVD, scenarios, role plays, discussion. Case studies (Skunk and links to Mental Illness – effects on individuals and families / friends)</p>
<p>Years 12 and 13</p> <p>Seeking help and support. Illegal drugs and consequences (legal ramifications). Legal Highs (NPS). Binge drinking and recommended units of alcohol consumption. Drinking and Driving – consequences & the Law. Alcohol, drugs and their contribution to abusive/negative relationships. Understanding the negative impact of the illegal drug trade. Drinking, drugs and partying.</p>	2 lessons	PSHE teaching team	<p>Presentations, DVD's, discussions and teacher led activities.</p>