



Substance Abuse Policy

Rationale

Edgbaston High School for Girls is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. It will not tolerate the possession, use or supply of dangerous or illegal substances in a school context. Our first concern in managing substance abuse is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

For the purpose of this policy the term 'substance' includes: drugs, volatile substances, alcohol and tobacco.

Statement of Policy

- Alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, volatile substances and illegal drugs are forbidden on School premises.
- The School is committed to a comprehensive education programme in respect of substance abuse.
- The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the School, will seek to promote an awareness of the consequences of abuse of substances.

Any student involved in illegal drugs when she is under the School's authority can expect to be excluded from school. The police will be informed. Being under the School's authority means:

- on the way to and from school,
- throughout the School day, whether on or off the premises,
- whenever she is involved in any activity/trip organised by the School,
- whenever she is identifiable as a member of the School.

In addition, where it has been brought to the attention of the Headteacher that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the School reserves the right to exclude her.

Any pupil who possesses or uses any illegal substance while under the jurisdiction of the school will be excluded. The length of the exclusion will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Linked policies include

- Behaviour Policy
- Rewards and Sanctions Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Objectives

- To ensure that Edgbaston High School is free from illegal drugs (and solvents).
- To explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To provide a statement in respect of our educational aims and School ethos in relation to Drugs Education.
- To identify our provision for Drugs Education both within our Curriculum and beyond.
- To provide a procedure for dealing with cases of substance abuse and to provide essential guidelines for Staff.

Success Criteria

- Students educated of the effects of drugs (and solvents) on the mind and body.
- Students provided with opportunities to practise the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs.
- The individual's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth promoted.
- Staff, pupils and parents clear on the way in with the School will deal with situations involving substance abuse.

Methodology

1. Implementation

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and abuse:

- to provide accurate information about substances,
- to enable pupils to make informed choices by increasing knowledge and developing and practising skills; to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse,
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS,
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face,
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support,
- to put in place support for pupils who may have family problems related to substance abuse.

These aims are fulfilled through the Science Curriculum, PSHEE and through co-curricular opportunities.

Drugs Education: School Organisation for the Delivery of Drugs Education through the Curriculum

Organisation of the Programme:

The delivery of Drugs Education is primarily done through PSHEE lessons which are usually taught on a weekly basis. The programme promotes health and wellbeing but also focuses on issues such as peer pressure and raising pupils' self esteem. In Senior School, the programme is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHEE in conjunction with the Deputy Head Pastoral. In the Preparatory School, it is co-ordinated across year groups and monitored by the Head of PSHEE, Mindfulness and Study Skills, Deputy and Head of Preparatory School.

In addition, guest speakers are invited into school to speak to individual year groups.

Key Stage 2 PSHEE

- To understand the effects of smoking.
- To develop understanding of other poisons and toxins that can harm the body.
- To understand the difference between medicine and drugs (illegal).

Key Stage 3 PSHEE

- Smoking. Its dangers and the reasons people smoke.
- Alcohol. Its effects on the body, the reasons why people drink and the role of the Media.
- Drugs. Information about types of drugs and their effects on the body; why people take drugs.
- Drugs and the Law. The relationship between substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.

Key Stage 3 Science

- Smoking related diseases.
- Benefits of a balanced diet

Key Stage 4 PSHEE

- Smoking. Its dangers on the body and personal image.
- Alcohol. Its dangers in society related to behaviour and sexual behaviour.
- Developing Personal Strategies to improve self esteem and decision-making skills in relation to smoking, alcohol and drugs.

Key Stage 4 Science

- The effects of lifestyle on health.

Procedure for Dealing with Cases of Suspected Substance Abuse

The School will consider each incident individually. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil(s) involved, the other members of the School and the local community. In the interests of the School as a whole, the permanent exclusion of the pupil(s) concerned may be an appropriate response. Parents of the pupil(s) involved will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, EHS will not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the preparation, production or supply of illegal substances. In these and other appropriate circumstances, the School reserves the right to involve the police and to provide them with all the necessary support and assistance.

Pupils will be asked for their consent before conducting any searches. However, if the pupil declines, the School reserves the right to search a pupil's locker and bags in the presence of the pupil and two members of Staff. Searches may be conducted without the pupil present if there is any concern that a pupil has ingested a substance and may be at risk of harm.

Guidance for Staff

Management of Drug Related Incidents

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act 1971, it is illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (e.g. possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). Solvents

are dangerous substances as well. Under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1965, it is illegal for anyone to supply or offer to supply a substance if they know or believe that the substance being supplied will be inhaled by a person under 18 for the purpose of intoxication.

A drug related incident is any incident involving a chemical substance which is used for physiological or psychological effects.

Signs and symptoms which may indicate that a drug related incident has taken place might include:

- changed behaviour by pupils in school,
- erratic mood swings, e.g. unusual irritability or aggression,
- loss of interest in work, activities or friends,
- changes in attendance patterns.

Response to a drug related incident will depend on the nature of the substance being used. Procedures to be followed are as indicated below.

Interviewing Pupils in Relation to Drug Related Matters

If you suspect that a pupil is using drugs or is in possession of them, a written report should be made as soon as possible. This should be as specific as possible and must include times, dates and actions taken.

A pupil must never be interviewed on her own. Parents will be contacted to come into school and they or another designated adult must be present at an interview.

Usually pupils will be interviewed by either the Headmistress or the Deputy Head Pastoral in the presence of another member of staff.

Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping products:

The school is a non-smoking site and therefore smoking in any part of the building or grounds will not be tolerated. Edgbaston High School aims to give students the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers. It is an offence for children under 18 years to be sold tobacco products. Since 2015 it has also been an offence for electronic cigarettes or vaping products to be sold to children under 18 or bought on their behalf.

Smoking, vaping or being in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products is prohibited when the student is under the School's authority

Smoking, vaping or being in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products will result in immediate suspension of the pupil concerned for a length of time to be determined by the Headmistress.

Alcohol:

The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol. Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited in school building or grounds, when under the authority of the school, including on outings and school trips.

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil may have consumed or is under the influence of alcohol, they should contact the Deputy Head Pastoral. She will then contact the School Nurse

and the pupil will be placed in the medical room under supervision. Parents will be asked to come into school to collect their daughter and take her home. A subsequent meeting will then take place between parents, the pupil and the Headmistress and a period of exclusion will follow. This period of time will be at the discretion of the Headmistress.

Prescribed Drugs:

In the Preparatory School pupils needing to take medication in the school day must take their medicine and a letter from parents explaining what the medicine is, what it is used for and directions for administration to the School Nurse. The medicine will then be stored appropriately by the School Nurse either in a secure cabinet or fridge.

Illegal substances such as illegal drugs or volatile substances:

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil may have drugs in school or is under the influence of drugs, they should report this immediately to the Headmistress or Deputy Head Pastoral. Procedures as outlined for the Management of Drug Related Events will then be put into action.

2. Monitoring

The Headmistress takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and for the training and support of all staff involved in its implementation.

The Heads of PSHEE and the Deputy Head Pastoral will have responsibility for the daily implementation of the educational aims of the policy.

All concerns relating to substance abuse will be documented on My Concern by reporting staff and the data analysed by the Deputy Head Pastoral

Evaluation and Review

The Deputy Head Pastoral will take responsibility for evaluating and reviewing this policy. Updates will be communicated to staff via staff briefings/meetings. The Governing body will be made aware of all updates. The policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if appropriate.

Signed by the Headmistress CAMauro

Approved by
The Governing Body 20/9/22

Date: 20/9/22

Review date: August 2024