



The Crypt School

Management of Substance Misuse Policy

Lead Person: Deputy Head (Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing)

Support Persons: SLT. Staff. School Counsellor. School Nurse

Governing Body Committee: Pupil Welfare Committee

This policy is designed in accordance with the Department of Education documents: *'Drug advice for schools'* published in September 2012 and *'Searching, screening and confiscation- advice for schools'* published in July 2023.

1. Responsibilities

The Head has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy, for liaison with the Governing Body and parents and external agencies, as appropriate. All staff (teaching and support staff) have a duty to report to the Deputy Head (Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing) all incidents of substance misuse connected with the school - they will liaise directly with the Head. The Head will be solely responsible for any necessary communication with the media.

2. Aims and objectives

I. The aims and objectives of this policy are to:

- a) Clarify the School's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- b) Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in School and of visitors to the School.
- c) Enable staff to manage substance misuse incidents appropriately, with confidence and consistency.
- d) Support, when possible, pupils whose own drug or alcohol use, or that of a family member, is causing concern, including screening and referral or signposting to external agencies.
- e) State the legal requirements and responsibilities of the School.
- f) Guide on the development, implementation and monitoring of The Crypt School's drug education programme.

g) Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the School drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs and substances.

3. To whom the policy applies:

This policy applies to all staff and students of The Crypt School and to all guests and visitors whilst they are on the school site. It also applies to all staff and students whilst they are engaged in any school activities whether on or off-site. This includes travel to and from School.

4. Definitions:

The term Substance misuse refers to “a broad term encompassing harmful use of any psychotropic substance, including alcohol and either legal or illicit drugs,” NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) 2013. In terms of this document substance misuse refers to any form of ingestible / inhalable / injectable substance including food supplements, vitamins, protein drinks, sports supplements, caffeine, being used to harmful excess.

a) Possession is defined as a person knowingly having drugs / substances within their personal control i.e. in their hand, pocket, bag, car etc.

b) Supply refers to sharing, selling or giving drugs / substances to another person / people. Legally, if a person says they are ‘looking after drugs’ for another, they can still be charged with intent to supply.

5. Prohibited substances

1. Illegal Drugs

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 it is illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act (unless authorised) and an offence to knowingly permit these activities. Therefore, the School does not allow anyone to possess, supply or offer illegal drugs on its premises. This includes CBD drugs such as gummies or ‘edibles’. Any suspected illegal drugs found or confiscated within the School boundaries will be disposed of appropriately.

2. Alcohol

It is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under 18, or for a person to buy alcohol under 18. It is also an offence to buy alcohol on behalf of a person under 18 as stated in the Licensing Act 1964. It is illegal to provide alcohol to any child without the express permission of their parents. Any student, including those 18 or over, must not bring alcohol to school and any students found to have brought or consumed alcohol at school will be sanctioned in line with the School Behaviour Policy.

3. Solvents

The intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985 states that it is illegal 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.

4. Electronic Cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes (known as e-cigarettes or vapes) are devices that mimic real cigarettes. They deliver nicotine through vapour rather than smoke.

E-cigarettes also pose a risk due to the ease with which other unregulated, and highly potent substances, can be ingested via the devices.

5. New (Novel) Psychoactive Substances commonly known as 'Legal Highs'

New psychoactive substances defined by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) "are substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat.

6. Energy Drinks

Energy drinks such as, but not limited to, Red Bull, Monster and Lucozade Energy, and/or any drinks with very high caffeine content or containing other stimulants.

6. Authorised Drugs which may legitimately be in school:

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. Staffing, administration, storage and record keeping procedures are all clearly set out in the Supporting Students with Medical Conditions and First Aid policies.

The Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy also sets out the circumstances in which a student may take non-prescribed/over-the counter medicines, such as those providing relief from period pains or hay fever. School staff do not give non-prescribed medication to students unless supplied with written authorisation by parent/carer.

7. Procedures and Sanctions:

The School will consider each incidence of substance misuse separately and consider the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case, and the need to balance the interests of the student, other members of the school and the wider community. Incidents should be reported immediately to the Deputy Head (Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing), designated senior member of staff responsible for managing drug incidents.

However, the following guidelines will generally apply:

The school rules – which all students and parents accept on entry to The Crypt School - make it very clear that no student should bring any type of substance to school. This not only covers the school site but also any location where school activities are taking place e.g. school trips abroad, sporting tours or exchange visits.

The School treats any infringement of its Substance Misuse Policy as a very serious matter and anyone found in possession of a banned substance will be sanctioned. In the first instance students can expect to receive a fixed term suspension from school. Return to school will be conditional on the student attending a reintegration meeting accompanied by their parents/guardians at which clear targets will be drawn up and any necessary programme of support identified. Students found in possession of banned substances on any further occasion can expect to face permanent exclusion.

Any student found supplying banned substances can normally expect an immediate (i.e. for the first offence) permanent exclusion from the school. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In all cases of substance misuse the school will inform and involve the student's parents/guardians.

Although there is no legal duty to inform the police of a drug incident, it is likely that the Head and the governors will determine it appropriate to inform the Police and seek their support and advice.

8. Prevention and education:

In line with its commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle, the Crypt School seeks to prevent substance misuse through a policy of support and guidance for all its students.

At present students learn about drugs and other substances through both the Key Stage 3 and 4 Personal Education and the Science programmes of study. This is also referred to in Key Stage 5 Personal Development lessons. The topic is visited a number of times and covers aspects such as:

- How drugs and alcohol affect the body (physical and psychological)
- Knowing and recognising drugs
- Resisting peer group and media pressures
- Drug management and risk taking

We believe that by teaching and discussing these topics with students from an early stage they will be better informed to make sensible and safer choices and be more aware of the risks of substance misuse.

The school also employs a professional counsellor who is able to provide individual support for vulnerable students. Likewise, the school has a number of contacts with external agencies through which support and help can be accessed for students at risk. This includes InfoBuzz who provide individual targeted support around drugs and emotional health issues, development of personal and social skills, and information and support around substance misuse. They can support the School in making a referral to other agencies for support if required.

9. Staff Training:

The Head will ensure that staff (teaching and support staff) receive appropriate training in drug education and the handling of incidents.

10. Monitoring and Review:

The Pupil Welfare Committee of the Governing Body will review the policy and assess its effectiveness, making recommendations for any necessary changes. All changes will be notified to staff, students and parents. As appropriate, the views of students and their parents will be sought in reviewing the policy.

11. Distribution: All staff and students of the school; school website

12. Links to:

- School Rules
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Reviewed by Deputy Head Pastoral: June 2024

Approved by Pupil Welfare Committee: June 2024

Review cycle: 3 years

Review date: June 2027