

# Drugs Policy

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**Formby High School**  
*Determined To Achieve*

## Drugs Policy

### Policy Statements

- For the purposes of this policy, 'drugs' refers to all illicit and illegal drugs, including volatile substances (solvents, aerosols, gases and nitrites), psychoactive substances (for example but not limited to, nitrous oxide and Spice), alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.
- Medicines are handled in accordance with the 'Managing Medicine on School Premises' section of our Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Formby High School will be an environment free from drugs; the paraphernalia of drugs, substances intended to resemble drugs and the "culture" of drugs.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of all members of the community and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.
- Formby High School seeks to educate its students and to help them develop into mature young people who are able to say no to drugs.
- The school acknowledges the importance of the pastoral care it provides and the curriculum in supporting and educating students to make well informed, sensible choices about drugs.
- The possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context, which is defined as on any school premises or during any school activity, is totally forbidden.
- Any instances of possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter and the likely outcome is permanent exclusion from school.
- When dealing with drugs related incidents, the school will follow guidance provided to schools by the Department for Education, Sefton Local Authority and Merseyside Police and will engage with external agencies, including the Police, as necessary.

### A Definition of Drugs

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act (1971), it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (for example, possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). This policy extends to those substances covered by the Act and other substances that are not illegal but may be consumed for intoxicating purposes such as solvents, alcohol and / or cigarettes. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess on custodial premises, psychoactive substances;

### Aims of the Policy:

- To ensure that Formby High School is free from illegal and illicit drugs (including substances that may be used for intoxicating purposes such as volatile substances [solvents, aerosols, gases and nitrites], alcohol and tobacco).
- To educate students on the effects of drugs on the mind and body.
- To provide opportunities for students to practise the personal and social skills and develop the strategies required to deal with situations involving drugs.
- To promote the self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth of all individuals.
- 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 enable parents to acquire knowledge and support.

- To provide a clear framework for dealing with drugs related incidents where a student is under the school's authority. Being under the school's authority is defined as:
  - throughout the school day, whether on or off the premises
  - whenever he/she is involved in any activity organised by the School
  - whenever he/she is wearing school uniform or otherwise identifiable as a member of the School

#### **Dealing with Drugs Related Incidents:**

- Any drugs related incident will be investigated thoroughly, fairly, confidentially and promptly, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, Department for Education guidance and Merseyside Police guidance.
- All drugs related incidents will be handled by the Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Support Manager.
- Parents will be informed if their son / daughter is suspected of being involved in a drugs related incident and the student(s) concerned will be interviewed in the presence of their parents.
- Any student who is involved in a drugs related incident may be referred to the Governors' Student Disciplinary panel.
- The school will inform the police of any drugs related investigation and will hand over any illegal substances / paraphernalia to the police for safe disposal.
- Where no admission of misuse is forthcoming, it may be necessary, with the consent of the student and his / her parents to arrange for a urine or saliva test, which will be conducted by an outside agency.
- Where it has been brought to the attention of the school that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the school reserves the right to deal with this as an internal disciplinary matter.
- Any student who is caught in possession of drugs paraphernalia will be dealt with as outlined above and places him/herself at risk of either fixed term or permanent exclusion from school.

#### **Solvents, Alcohol and Tobacco**

The consumption of Solvents, Alcohol and / or tobacco on school premises is not acceptable. The school's position reflects the fact that these substances are significant causes of preventable premature death and ill-health in society. The consumption of these substances can be habit forming and constitute anti-social behaviour. Under legislation, it is an offence for children under 18 years to purchase these products.

As with illegal drugs, the school will educate students on the immediate and long-term risks associated with the consumption of solvents, aerosols, gases, nitrites, alcohol and tobacco. Where appropriate, support and professional advice will be provided to students who want to 'give up'.

Inhaling solvents, or being in possession of solvents with the intention of using in school or when under the school's authority is prohibited. Students found in possession of solvents or consuming it whilst in school or under the authority of the school can expect to be excluded from school.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol in school or when under the school's authority is prohibited. Students found in possession of alcohol or consuming it whilst in school or under the authority of the school can expect to be excluded from school.

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco (including e-cigarettes), is prohibited when a student is under the school's authority. Students caught smoking or in possession of cigarettes or tobacco (including e-cigarettes) will receive an SLT detention in the first instance and can expect their parents to be informed. Subsequent offences will result in more serious sanctions being issued.

### **The Education of Students on Drugs and their Associated Risks**

The school will provide comprehensive education and guidance to students through the PSHEE and Science curriculum. The purpose of this guidance is to make students aware of what drugs exist and the short and long term risks associated with consuming them. Students should be well prepared to make informed decisions about the consumption of drugs and other harmful substances. The curriculum content that is taught to students is outlined in Appendix One.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the school community in relation to the application of this policy are outlined below:

#### **Students**

- To make positive decisions about drugs and other harmful substances, always respecting, themselves, others and the school environment.
- To engage positively with the curriculum to learn about drugs and other harmful substances and the risks associated with their consumption.
- To inform a responsible adult if they suspect that drugs, solvents, alcohol and / or are being consumed or brought onto the school premises.
- To allow the school to offer help, inform a responsible adult if they have concerns about their own health / welfare or that of one of their peers.

#### **Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff**

- For those with responsibility for the organisation of the Science / PSHEE curriculum (Director of Science, Key Stage 3 and 4 Science Coordinators, PSHEE and Citizenship Coordinator, Director of Sixth Form and Climate for Learning Leaders) to ensure that the aspects of the curriculum relating to drugs and other harmful substances are well planned and that effective resources are provided to those responsible for teaching the curriculum content. Where appropriate, this may include engaging outside agencies to deliver aspects of the curriculum.
- For those with responsibility for teaching Science and / or PSHEE, to deliver the curriculum content relating to drugs and other harmful substances, ensuring that all students are well informed and able to make reasoned judgements concerning the consumption of drugs.
- To inform the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if they have concerns or suspicions about drugs related behaviour.
- To act as excellent role models to the students at all times.
- To listen to any student who makes a disclosure about drugs related incidents and immediately inform either the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

#### **Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Support Manager**

- To oversee the implementation of this policy.
- To organise appropriate training for staff to ensure they confidently teach the Science and PSHEE curriculum content associated with drugs and other harmful substances.

- To investigate any drugs related incident in accordance with the protocols outlined above.
- To inform the Governing Body and any relevant external organisations of drugs related incidents that have been investigated.

**Parents**

- To work in partnership with the school by reinforcing the material and messages taught to students through the Science and PSHEE curriculum regarding drugs and other harmful substances.
- To support the school in its investigation of any drugs related incidents that may involve their child(ren).

**Governing Body**

- To approve and monitor the implementation of this policy.

## Appendix One – Curriculum Information

### Key Stage Three

#### Personal Social Health Economic Education (PSHEE)

In Year 8 students look at how other people can influence you to do things that you normally would not do. They also learn about leading a healthy lifestyle and how smoking and drinking are drugs that can affect your lifestyle. They consider the role of the World Health Organisation as well as medicinal and illegal drugs, focusing particularly on cannabis. Students learn about the drugs laws and the consequences of taking and supplying illegal drugs.

In Year 9 students learn about illness and how drugs are used to support the ill. Students are also given guidance on where to get advice in relation to drugs.

#### Science

Within the 'Live and Kicking' unit of study, students learn about the effect of cannabis, alcohol and smoking on an athlete's performance.

### Key Stage Four

#### Personal Social Health Economic Education (PSHEE)

In Year 10 students spend a term learning about both legal and illegal drugs; the different types, ways of taking them, their costs, the effects on your body and mind and how society is affected. They are taught about tobacco and alcohol as drugs along with things such as coffee that they often consider not being a type of drug. They consider why people choose to take drugs and why is it the younger generation that often consume more. Material is delivered on e-cigarettes and we explain that these are harmful to people as well as traditional cigarettes. Students discuss in detail the laws surrounding illegal drugs and the different classifications of drugs, along with minimum fines and jail terms.

In Year 11, again for a whole term, students learn about harder drugs such as heroin and cocaine, and their addictive qualities. They hear real life stories of how drugs have impacted on people's lives. This has included ex-drug users visiting school to speak frankly to students about how drugs ruined their lives.

#### Science

During Year 10 Biology lessons, students learn about medical, recreational and illegal drugs, including their effects on the body and reaction times.

### Key Stage Five

The school has long-standing links with SMASH, a service that supports and educates young people about substance misuse and other issues affecting their well-being. The SMASH service has been involved in presenting workshops during Enrichment lessons as well as assemblies.

Consideration of drugs and substance misuse takes place in a number of the courses taught explicitly at BTEC and A Level, including Sport, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Theatre Studies, as well as featuring in English, Spanish, Geography lessons.