

Looking out for the physical symptoms or signs of drug use can be difficult. These symptoms will vary depending on the intensity and type of drugs that have been taken. Typically, it would be easy to smell drugs (such as cannabis) as a tell-tale sign of drug use but this is not always the case. Some other symptoms include:

- Sudden changes in mood/behaviour, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Drowsiness, sleepiness or slurred speech
- Unusual, small stains or marks on clothing, body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Flushed face or neck
- Dilated pupils
- Staining on hands
- Unsteady on feet
- Small groups meeting in secretive places

**Please Note:** There are some symptoms that could be confused with signs of innocent behaviour.

There is a large range of equipment associated with drug use:

- Grinders (below)
- Tobacco and paper (skins)
- Small bottles or pillboxes
- Twists of paper
- Small polythene bags with seal (below)
- Containers made from silver foil
- Balloons
- Crackers to open nitrous oxide canisters (below)
- Stash cans disguised as everyday objects
- Empty solvent containers
- Cigarette lighters / matches
- Drinks cans with extra holes



Drugs are becoming a lot cheaper to purchase than previously thought, e.g. £1 for a cannabis infused gummy bear. These, along with other illegal substances (such as psychoactive substances that used to be called legal highs) are now becoming more freely available to students in a variety of ways, most notably on platforms such as Snapchat and Instagram through the chat feature. Keep a lookout for your child having unknown numbers or usernames stored in his/her phone.

**Below are common 'street' names for different types of drugs:**

**Cocaine:** Coke; Blow; Rock; Crack; Sniff; White; Beak.

**Ecstasy:** X; Molly; E; Rolls; Candy; MDMA.

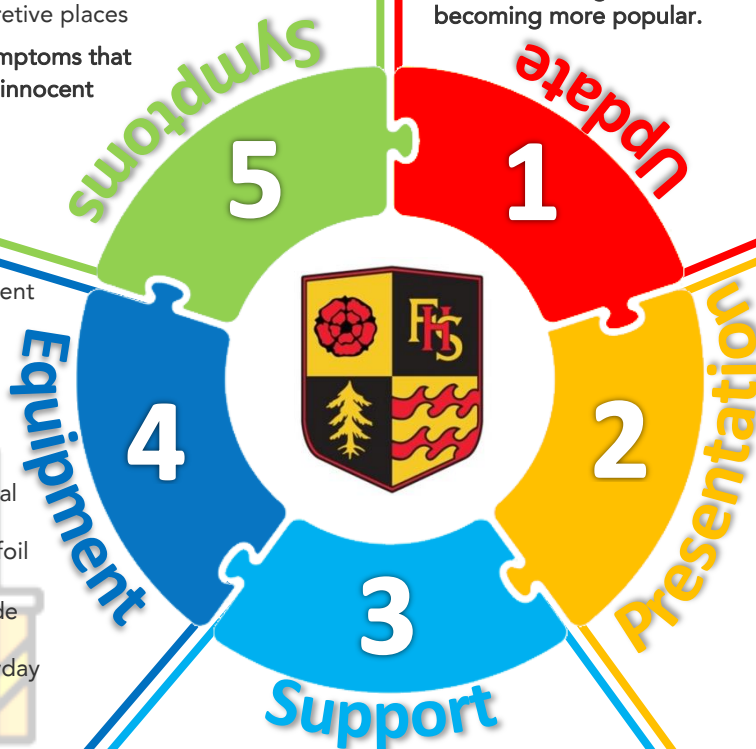
**Heroin:** Smack; Dope; Horse; Junk; Scag.

**Marijuana:** Weed; Pot; Hash; Green; Bud; Grass; Ganja; Dope; Spice; Skunk; Spliff; Poly.

**Psychoactive Substances:** Spice; Balloons; MKat; Meow meow; Bubble; Bounce.

**Ketamine:** Mandy; Ket; Special K; Jet; Super acid.

**Please Note:** Edibles (cannabis infused foods such as gummy bears) and e-cigarettes which include liquid cannabis are becoming more popular.



When drugs are consumed, it is likely that a user's presentation and appearances will change. Here are some things to look out for:

- Keeping away from other students
- Being the subject of a 'drug' rumour
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing
- Loss of money or belongings
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods that are then sold
- Changes in school attendance
- Lack of participation in activities
- Loss of interest in a hobby
- Sudden changes in friendships
- Decline in school performance
- Strangers around home or school

**Police (101)**

Report any non-emergencies to the Police by phoning 101. This will allow you to report any suspicious activity.

**External Support**

There are a variety of support options via the Internet that will help you to identify if drugs are being used or taken by anyone that you know. Links can be found below.

**School Support**

There is support available from school should you need it. Please contact the Pastoral Support Team or Mrs Blanchard (Designated Safeguarding Lead).



# Minute Briefing

Information on drug safety at Formby High School

**add** **Addaction** [addaction.org.uk](http://addaction.org.uk)  
Services for people who are dependent on drugs and their families.

**FRANK** **Frank** [talktofrank.com](http://talktofrank.com)  
Information about recreational drugs, and free 24-hour helpline.

**Adfam** **Adfam** [adfam.org.uk](http://adfam.org.uk)  
Support and information for family and friends of people with drug problems.

**DrugWise** **DrugWise** [drugwise.org.uk](http://drugwise.org.uk)  
Information about drugs.