



Elemore Hall School

Policy Title	Alcohol, Smoking & Drugs Policy
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This version	January 2021
Approved by	
To be reviewed by	Curriculum, Standards and ECM Committee
Review Due	December 2022

ALCOHOL, DRUGS and SMOKING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Alcohol, drugs and smoking are all features of everyday life that pupils and staff may come into contact with in one way or another. It is important that the school has an active policy on this area as it is widely acknowledged that alcohol, drugs and smoking can have a serious impact on the health of those who are using them and the school needs to be clear about what its approach is.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all users of the school grounds and premises including staff, pupils and visitors.

PRINCIPLES OF THE PROCEDURE

This policy is to be applied fairly and consistently. It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to ensure that the principles of the policy are adhered to.

DEFINITIONS

This policy relates to all drugs including over the counter medicines, prescription medicines and illegal drugs. The policy also relates to alcohol, tobacco, solvent/volatile substances and e-cigarettes.

SCHOOL RESPONSE

The school response aims to be appropriate and proportionate. Whilst smoking is not allowed for example, the consequences of smoking at school are less severe than the consequences of supplying cannabis. The following is a broad guideline but should not be seen as a definitive list of what must be done.

Smoking - cigarettes/e-cigarettes/tobacco

Smoking is not allowed on any County Council site including schools. This position is made clear and there are no smoking signs at different points on the school site. All pupils are aware that smoking is not permitted. When staff see a pupil smoking, they will challenge the pupil and where possible remove the 'cigarette'. Any further cigarettes, tobacco, lighters, etc should be confiscated. The school recognises that eradicating smoking is virtually impossible. Many of the pupils smoke with parental knowledge/consent/support – this makes the school's position very difficult. As a school we challenge smoking as part of the classroom curriculum. In addition, for smokers, the school periodically runs a smoking cessation course for pupils who would like to stop.

Drugs

By far the most likely drug to be used by our pupils is cannabis. The school recognises that there are an increasing number of pupils who use cannabis socially outside school. Such is the availability of cannabis that occasionally pupils will bring some onto school site and will attempt to use it. Staff vigilance usually identifies the potential of this before the reality occurs. Again staff vigilance is used to intercept or challenge pupils who are missing from where they should be and to identify if they are involved in unacceptable behaviours. Pupils identified as having used cannabis may be sent home for health and safety reasons or may be excluded (although this is not an automatic response). Any pupil identified as bringing cannabis onto site and supplying others will be excluded and

there will be a requirement that parents/carers meet with senior staff to try to prevent a repetition and outline expected behaviour. Where it is considered appropriate, the school may involve the Police however the school realises that this course of action cannot guarantee a Police response or an outcome that would deter pupils.

Other drugs

Whilst cocaine, heroin, MDMA and other drugs are available locally, the school has so far avoided direct experience. The same routine will exist as for cannabis for those using or supplying, however given the different status of these drugs the Police will be involved and exclusion is likely, there may also be a referral to Social Care services.

Solvent/volatile substance misuse

This has not been a problem at the school in the recent past; however we would still react in the following way. Solvent/volatile substance misuse is often done by individuals rather than in social groups and those using are often secretive, this is a generalisation and we acknowledge that it is possible for groups of young people to be involved. We would seek to identify any individual thought to be using and offer them support either directly or through a specialist counsellor, there may be a referral to Social Care services. Parents are likely to be informed (unless the school is advised to take an alternative approach by Social Care).

Alcohol

Alcohol is not a common problem in school although we recognise that some pupils drink alcohol outside school. If a pupil brings alcohol into school it will be confiscated. If a pupil drinks alcohol at school or arrives under the influence, then parents will be contacted and the pupil sent home. A meeting will be arranged between the school, pupil and parent to discuss the matter.

Supplying

If a pupil is found to be supplying drugs, cigarettes or alcohol to others then they will be excluded and a meeting held with their parents. Depending on the case, the Police and/or Safeguarding Services may be involved.

Police

The school reserves the right to involve the Police on any occasion when it is thought that a criminal act has been committed, where pupils are under the influence and behaving in a dangerous, aggressive or inappropriate manner, where there has been supplying or where the drugs are illegal.

Discovering Drugs/Cigarettes/Alcohol

If the school discovers alcohol or cigarettes, these will be destroyed. If drugs are discovered then these may be reported to the Police.

First Aid/Emergency Situations

It is possible that pupils may arrive at the school under the influence or take something at school that renders them in need of medical assistance. On any occasion where a pupil is thought to be under the influence they should be seen by a first aider who will decide on a course of action in consultation with the Duty Coordinator and Head/Deputy. Where a pupil is a little woozy the school might contact parents and arrange for them to go home, if symptoms are more serious then the school may phone for an ambulance for emergency professional support and treatment.

Disclosure of drug use

Occasionally a pupil might confide to staff that they are a drug user. This is sometimes done as a cry for help and sometimes to show off. If a member of staff feels that the

pupil is seeking help then this should be passed onto the Deputy Head who will look into sourcing appropriate support.

County Lines

Many of our pupils could be identified as 'vulnerable'. It is now widely recognised that organised gangs are using vulnerable young people to push and deliver drugs and that through this the young person is significantly at risk of harm.

Staff should identify any concerns they have to one of the safeguarding leads. Whilst it is not automatic, information gathered by the DSLs may be passed on to other agencies as part of Social Care/Police intelligence gathering.

STAFF

If staff are identified as being under the influence of drugs or alcohol (whether they used before coming to work or have taken substances at the school) the Headteacher should be notified immediately. If found to be true, the member of staff will be sent home until such a time that they are not under the influence. Any staff member in this position will automatically be the subject of a disciplinary investigation, including possible suspension from duty.

It is acknowledged that some staff smoke, however as the school is a no smoking site, it is beholden upon them to smoke offsite or in their cars (if pupils cannot see them).

Staff should be aware that their conduct when not at work is also required to remain consistent with the standard expected of a worker in an educational establishment and consequently any use of recreational drugs or over indulgence in alcohol in public may lead to disciplinary action.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The school tries to educate pupils about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, etc, during PSHE, Culture, PE and Food Technology lessons in addition to informal discussions for example at mealtimes.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Staff Handbook
- Positive Management of Behaviour Policy
- Searching a Child's Possessions Policy
- Hitting the Target

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be updated bi-annually, or sooner if appropriate.

January 2021