

Cromwell High School

Drugs and Alcohol policy.

Learning today for a better tomorrow!

Date reviewed: May 2023

Date of next review: June 2025

Policy responsibility:

Personal Growth Coordinator and Health and Safety governors.

Context:

This policy was developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem, who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

It links with:

- Health & Safety Policy,
- Behaviour Policy,
- Anti-Bullying Policy,
- Child Protection Policy,
- National Healthy School Standard,
- School Policy on Medicines in School,
- P.G Curriculum and relevant modules.
- Science Curriculum.

The policy has been developed using national and local guidance, including 'Drugs – Guidance for Schools' DfES 2004, NHSS guidelines, LA guidelines, QCA schemes of work in Science, the framework for PHSCE, and QCA curriculum guidance on Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Education 2003 and the most recent 2012 guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

Purpose:

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises
- Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the school drug education programme and management of drug-related incidents

The drug policy applies to the school and playing fields including pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone else visiting the school. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips.

Definition of 'drugs':

This policy uses the definition that a drug... The term 'drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs,
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled,
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Statement on drugs:

Cromwell High School and 6th Form finds it wholly unacceptable within the premises or grounds to introduce, sell or use illegal drugs or to misuse legal drugs or substances. Appropriate steps will be taken to deal with any drug-related incidents which occur. This is supported by the school's code of conduct which all staff are to follow at all times.

The school has a policy on the administration of prescription medicines when necessary, which conforms to LA guidelines. The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

See the school's medication policy and protocols for additional information relating to 'prescription drugs and other forms of medication.'

Drug Education:

Educational Aims and Objectives:

The school's drug education programme is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to make informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Drug education will link in with the Personal Growth schemes of work and the whole school ethos of promoting high self-esteem and Emotional Literacy within pupils.

Specific aims of the Drug Education Policy are:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.
- To foster and develop self-esteem.
- To provide accurate information at a relevant and accessible level for our children.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To practice the skills necessary to deal with a drug offer situation.
- To widen understanding about health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

The dangers of Drugs and alcohol are fulfilled through the teaching of the Science and P.G and PE curriculum.

Areas of learning include:

- Providing basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after it.
- The role medicines play (both prescribed and over the counter) in promoting health and reasons people use them. That all drugs can be harmful if not used correctly.
- Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents, cleaners etc and the general effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body and behavior.
- People who are involved with medicines (e.g., health professionals, pharmacists, shop keepers. People who can help children when they have questions of concerns.)

Knowledge and understanding addresses medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs. This section of our learning also covers the dangers of handling discarded syringes and needles. We also teach all children that smoking has no health benefits, which is covered in our pupil voice survey.

Within the conceptual department, we teach children how to identify risks, skills for coping with peer influences and decision making, giving and getting help and the safety procedures when using medicines. In line with our British values work, we address the issues of valuing oneself and other people, taking responsibility for decisions and actions and considering social and moral dilemmas.

All teaching is delivered so that it takes into account of the differing needs of our pupils, which included augmented communication, ASC friendly approaches and sessions which reflect the needs of our SEMH children and young people.

The member of staff responsible for drug related issues will be sent on appropriate training courses and will cascade information to staff.

Assessment and monitoring:

Assessment of the Science, P.G and PE elements of the drugs Education Programme will be assessed according to the Cromwell KPIs, which are located in Onwards and Upwards.

Management of drugs at school:

If a drug-related incident occurs, staff should:

- Inform Head Teacher and/or responsible member of staff.
- Inform parent/carer providing this does not place child at risk. (On advice from Head Teacher/Head of school/Welfare manager.)
- Legal substances can be returned to parent/carer or disposed of safely.
- If disclosure is made by/about a child or carer, advice or information should be offered. Assess whether further action is necessary, e.g. is it putting the child at risk. Consider issues of confidentiality.
- Identify the needs of those involved in any incident and decide on an appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other agency. Provide pupil and carer with access to further forms of support. Provide information in school, for example, if a discarded syringe were to be found, children should be warned of the dangers as a matter of priority.
- Seek outside support if necessary, e.g. LA, school health team, child protection officer, EWO, police etc.
- In the case of illegitimate sale of legal or illegal drugs, the Head Teacher/Head of school will decide whether to inform the police – it is not a legal obligation to do so.
- All decisions and actions should be recorded within the school's welfare system. (CPOMS). The outcome for pupils and the school community should be monitored and the effectiveness of policy and practice assessed.

- Permanent exclusion of a pupil is seen as a last resort, with re-education being the approach that school would wish to adopt whenever possible.

In the extremely unlikely event of a drug related incident, the following procedures should be followed:

- Ascertain if there is any medical emergency, and call ambulance and follow First Aid procedures if necessary.
- Remove drug/paraphernalia using gloves and place in a secure container. Liaise with LA on safe disposal of matter such as needles. Temporarily store drug/paraphernalia in a secure place that cannot be accessed (SLT office.)

Police should be involved in any incident involving the sale or use of illegal drugs, although there is no legal obligation to give a pupil's name. The Head Teacher/Head of school will make the decision on the need to involve the police. Incidents where a parent/carer is behaving under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises will be judged on the circumstances and the Head Teacher/Head of school will make a decision as to whether the police should be called.

General power to confiscate

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so. Where the person finds other substances, which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

The needs of pupils:

Class teachers and others involved in the care of children should be aware of the pastoral needs of children affected by drug-related issues. Concerns should be raised with the Head Teacher, the responsible teacher, and SENCO, and appropriate support structures activated. (See section on confidentiality section of code of conduct).

In the case of child or young person needing support with any form of substance involvement or abuse the school will actively work with the relevant agencies.

Confidentiality:

Teachers and staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However, requests for confidentiality should be honored unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Cromwell Child protection policy
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. It should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes. Where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

Involvement of parents/carers:

In the event of any incident involving the misuse of any legal or illegal drug on school premises, the Head Teacher/Head of school will take the decision as to whether parents/carers should be informed, and how they will be involved in dealing with the incident.