



Drugs Education Policy	
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It is the school's responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of all students and therefore this policy is linked to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. The education around substance misuse is largely the responsibility of the Personal Development Department and other related areas such as Science and Religion, Ethics and Philosophy (REP). The responsibility for dealing with substance-related issues lies with Pastoral Teams with the support, where necessary, of the Senior Leadership Team. The latest advice for schools from the Government was issued in 2012 (DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, 2012).

What is a drug?

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

This includes legal and illegal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, medicines, psychoactive substances, solvents and aerosols: "any substance which, when consumed, alters an individual's physical, emotional or mental functioning".

Drugs are generally classified as one of the following categories:

- Legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, nicotine products, vapes and e-cigarettes
- Illegal drugs that are classified as 'A, B or C' in the 'Misuse of Drugs Act 2005'.
Examples of these are: a) Ecstasy, LSD, Heroin and Cocaine; b) Amphetamines, Methylphenidate (Ritalin when sold); c) Cannabis, tranquilisers and painkillers (sold to non-prescribed persons, Ketamine) In addition, vapes containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and any other illegal substance.

We regard a school-related drug incident, as:

- One that happens in school, outside the school gates, on the school bus, on school visits, or at an event after school hours organised through school. This covers any drug category, legal or illegal.
- Discovery of substances or unauthorised equipment associated with the use of drugs on school premises or as mentioned above.
- Possession of an unauthorised substance for personal use by a student, or possession with a view to supplying others.
- Intoxication of a student.
- Disclosure of drug misuse by a student.
- When a parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of a drug category on school premises.

Responses to a drug incident (in line with any other safeguarding incident)

- The student should be listened to, reassured and the allegations taken seriously. It should be explained that you are concerned for the student's well-being, and, because of the disclosure, the school's safeguarding team will be informed.
- The student must be allowed to disclose without questioning or prompting. A written record of the information received, and any action taken, should be made and a copy given to the safeguarding team member at the earliest opportunity. The record should be dated and signed by the staff member.
- The member of staff to whom the disclosure is made should, if possible, stay with the student until a decision is made in consultation with the school's designated safeguarding leader. The student should be made to feel comfortable and helped to cope with what is a stressful situation. The safeguarding team will decide on appropriate next steps.

Imberhorne School's drug-awareness strategy aims to constantly reinforce the harm that drugs cause to society, communities, individuals and their families. We work in partnership with students, families and external agencies to ensure that this aim is fully achieved.

Guidance and Education for Students

Imberhorne School aims to:

- Increase student awareness of drug-related issues in society through the Life curriculum lessons but also the wider Personal Development provision including external visitors. This is reviewed and updated annually.
- Develop students' understanding of the benefits and dangers associated with the use of legal and illegal drugs.
- Provide accurate and up-to-date information about drugs
- Assist students to develop skills to manage peer pressure relating to drugs.
- Enable young people to make informed and safer decisions around the use of drugs.
- Protect students by operating a "No drugs on site policy", other than approved legal drugs under controlled conditions.
- Take immediate action should potentially illegal acts relating to drugs occur.
- Co-operate fully with appropriate agencies such as the Police and Children's Services.

Under the Safeguarding policy, any drug incident disclosure is passed on to the relevant personnel within the school.

Guidance for Staff and Parents

What should you do if...?

You suspect a student is under the influence of a drug at school.

You should seek advice from, or contact, the relevant Head of Year or a member of the senior leadership team. If the student is physically ill, you should immediately call for assistance as you would for any other medical issue.

You suspect a student has a substance on his/her person.

This should be confidentially reported to the Assistant Headteacher responsible for the Key Stage, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher. You should note the student's name and evidence of your suspicions.

You are worried about a change of personality or mood swings in a student.

You should refer these issues to the relevant Head of Year as you would for any other emotional issue.

As a parent, if you are worried about any of the above:

Talk to your GP or your student's Head of Year, or contact the following numbers and websites:

FRANK

0300 123 6600

www.talktofrank.com

DAWN (Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network)

www.changegrowlive.org/drug-alcohol-wellbeing-network-west-sussex#1

Smoke Free West Sussex

Access to quit support and stop-smoking services such as [Smoke Free West Sussex](#)

CGL Children & Young People Therapeutic Service

Support for pupils affected by their own or a family member's substance use.

[CGL Children & Young People Therapeutic Service](#)