



Marple Hall School

Policy Document

Marple Hall School Drugs, Alcohol and Psychoactive Substance Policy

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Date approved by Governors:

Signed by Chair of Committee:

Signed by Headteacher:

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Definitions

Marple Hall School defines a “drug” as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes, but is not limited to:

- All Illegal Substances
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Psychoactive substances, so called ‘legal highs’

This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE and ACPO guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

Statement of intent

Marple Hall School takes seriously its responsibility to educate young people about drugs and alcohol and to support them where issues arise. Our core aim is to keep all students safe.

This includes keeping safe students who engage in risky behaviours and those who are exposed to drugs of any kind at home or in the wider community. Equally, we have a duty of care to all students and are committed to keeping Marple Hall School a drug free environment, keeping students safe from drugs and alcohol in school and keeping our community safe from anyone who may cause harm to others through exposure to drugs and alcohol.

We aim to:

- increase students’ knowledge and clarify any misconceptions about drugs
- develop students’ personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy
- ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help
- make students aware of the consequence for sharing or dealing drugs or alcohol in school or on the way to or from school and the effect this could have on their life chances

We are committed to:

- Educating students on the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.
- Providing a safe and healthy environment which is conducive to the education of the children in the school.
- Upholding the Health and Safety Policy already in place at the school.
- Publishing a robust policy which outlines where our zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse applies.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education Act 2011
- The Health Act 2006

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:

- Safeguarding (and Child Protection) Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- COSHH Policy

2. Key roles and responsibilities

Senior Leaders are responsible for dealing with any alcohol and drug related issues within the school.

3. Staff training

- At Marple Hall School, we recognise that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff receive training in identifying pupils who may be at risk.
- Teachers and support staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

4. Education and Support

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs aims to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

- Our aim is to educate our school community so that they can keep themselves safe from the harm that can be inflicted by drugs and alcohol. Additionally, we take seriously our responsibility to keep our community safe from the harm that can be caused by drugs and alcohol.
- All students receive updated guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the PSHE curriculum.
- Drugs and alcohol features regularly as part of the pastoral education in the form of whole school and targeted workshops and assemblies.
- Sessions are delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the students and are differentiated according to individual learning needs.
- Where appropriate, visitors and external speakers will join us to lead targeted sessions on drug and alcohol misuse.
- Students can be referred to or can self-refer to our MOSAIC Drugs and Alcohol Services worker mosaic@stockport.gov.uk or 0161 218 1100.
- The headteacher leads a termly message for students focused on the school's approach to drugs and alcohol and a letter to families with the same message will be issued at least annually,

- The pastoral team aims to build up relationships with students who may be at risk of harm from drugs and alcohol and to support them in the most appropriate way.
- We are committed to using drug dogs as a way of ensuring our school remains free from drugs
- The school will also be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed.

5. Smoking

In accordance with Part 1 of the Health Act 2006, Marple Hall School is a smoke free environment. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields, sheltered areas and the immediate vicinity around school grounds.

- Parents/carers, visitors and staff must not smoke on school grounds and will avoid smoking in front of students and/or encouraging students to smoke.
- Students are not permitted to bring smoking or other nicotine products onto the premises. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, cigarette papers, filter tips, lighters or matches.

6. Legal drugs and prescribed medicines

- We understand that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor, or other health professional.
- Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with all relevant information about their child's medical condition.
- Medicines should only be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.
- The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist or over the counter medicines taken on the advice of a health care professional. Parents/carers must deliver the medication to school; students must not carry any medications about their person except after discussion and agreement with the school's Medical Needs Officer.
- Medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed and must include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

7. Solvents

- Students are not permitted to bring solvent based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosols or compressed air.
- Misuse of solvents will be treated in the same way as misuse of drugs.
- The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely and students will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them in line with the COSHH guidance in school.

8. Persons found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol

Staff members found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be disciplined in line with their contract of employment.

- Visitors to the school found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school grounds will be escorted from the premises. The headteacher has the authority to ban persistent offenders from the school.
- Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, students suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be removed from class and escorted to one of the pastoral offices or the Medical Needs Office to be assessed. Assessment may include A Field Impairment Test (FIT) and/or oral swab test. A student refusing to cooperate with assessment will be assumed to be under the influence.
- The student's parent/carer will be contacted and asked to remove the student from the premises if they are believed to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol and, as such, potentially pose a risk to their own health and safety and that of others.
- The student will remain under supervision until their parent/carer arrives.
- If necessary, a search will be conducted.
- Whilst students are taught about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and are offered support where appropriate, those students who bring alcohol or drugs onto the school premises and deal or share with others will be permanently excluded from school.

9. Medical emergencies

In the case of a medical emergency, the Medical Needs Officer or another First Aider will assess the emergency immediately

- In drug related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned.
- A member of staff will remain with the casualty under common law duty of care until the trained first aider arrives.
- Other students will be removed from the immediate area, as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made to ascertain whether an ambulance will be called.
- The student's parents/carers will be telephoned and told about the incident.
- If the student is felt to be at risk, the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services will be contacted.
- All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.

10. Threatening behaviour

- Aggressive and threatening behaviour by students, staff or visitors under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously.
- Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, Marple Hall School will not hesitate in contacting the police.
- Any student, staff member or visitor displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises.
- In the case of students, parents/carers will be contacted.

11. Searching

- Staff members authorised by the Headteacher may use common law to search students, with their consent, for any item.

- Staff members authorised by the Headteacher may ask any student to turn out their pockets.
- Staff members authorised by the Headteacher may search any student's school bag or locker.
- Under Part 2, Section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers and pastoral staff are authorised by the headteacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco and cigarette papers, as well as illegal drugs and alcohol without the consent of the student if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student is in possession of a prohibited item.
- Where possible, searches will be conducted by a same sex member of staff with another staff member as a witness, unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.
- Staff members may require a student to remove outer clothing including hats, scarves, shoes, blazers, coats and scarves.
- Students' possessions will only be searched in the presence of the student and another member of staff unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.
- Staff members may use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search for alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco products.
- Any staff member may refuse to conduct a search.
- A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item. This includes so called "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified.

12. Controlled substances: drugs or chemicals whose manufacture, possessions and use is regulated by a government

- Marple Hall School has a zero-tolerance policy on the supply or sharing of drugs and alcohol in school or on the way to or from school.
- Supply or sharing of drugs and alcohol will result in permanent exclusion from the school, except in very exceptional cases at the discretion of the headteacher.
- Following the identification (where possible) and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation and the name of any witness/witnesses present.
- The staff member will store the sample in a secure location.
- The incident may be reported to the police who may collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols.
- Prohibited items not given to police will be disposed of safely.
- In cases of suspected dealing/sharing of drugs/alcohol, Marple Hall School will work with the police with regards to the name of the student from whom the contraband was taken.
- A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the headteacher.
- Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy and Behaviour Policy.
- Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, parents/carers of the student, will be notified and may be asked to collect their child from the trip location.

13. Discipline

- Students involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be disciplined as per the school's disciplinary procedures and, if appropriate, the police will be informed.
- Any students supplying or sharing drugs or alcohol in school or on the way to or from school will be permanently excluded from school.
- Any student who is involved in a drugs or alcohol incident other than supplying or sharing will be disciplined. This may involve a fixed term exclusion, referral to external agencies such as Mosaic and police involvement. Return to school after involvement in a drugs or alcohol incident other than supplying or sharing may result in a behaviour contract or Pastoral Support Plan or final written warning.
- Teachers and staff members involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be disciplined as per their contract of employment and, if appropriate, the police will be informed. Serious one-off incidents, repeated involvement, refusal to engage with support or suspected dealing/sharing may result in police being informed and termination of contract.
- Visitors involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be banned from entering school premises indefinitely and where appropriate, the police will be informed. Serious one-off incidents, repeated involvement, refusal to engage with support or suspected dealing/sharing may result in police being informed and a ban from school premises.

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on a bi- annual basis.