

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL: MISUSE AND EDUCATION POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Sir William Perkins's School (The School) is committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well-being, with particular reference to DfE guidelines : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

All students are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs and alcohol in wider communities and may also be exposed to the opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and e-cigarettes. It should be noted that the School condones neither the misuse of drugs, alcohol, or dangerous substances by members of the school community, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Through education and pastoral care, the School will promote the health and welfare of all members of the school community and will take all practicable steps to enforce an effective drugs and alcohol policy; this may involve other agencies such as the Police, Social Services and Health and Drug Agencies.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Good Behaviour Policy
- Discipline and Exclusions Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Administrations of Medicines in School Policy
- PSHCE Policy and Schemes of Work

SWPS is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory, in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the school's Equal Opportunities policy.

2. Definitions

- Drug Use* is drug taking, consuming of alcohol or using illegal drugs (or legal highs) which breach rules and require intervention.
- Drug and alcohol misuse* is when a person experiences social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or the regular exercise of consumption or dependence.
- Legal Drugs* include tobacco, alcohol, Ketamine and Volatile Substances such as lighter fuel which are deliberately inhaled. This category also includes any and e-cigarettes.
- The production, distribution, sale and supply of drugs known as 'legal highs' or *psychoactive substances* became illegal in May 2016 ([The Psychoactive Substances Act \(2016\)](#)).
- Illegal Drugs* include the Class B drug Cannabis and Class A drugs Cocaine, Crack, Ecstasy and Heroin ([1971 Misuse of Drugs Act](#))

3. Aims:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes
- to provide accurate information about substances
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- to enable students to identify sources of appropriate personal support

4. Content of the Drug and Alcohol Education Programme

Education relating to drugs, alcohol, and dangerous substances forms part of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship curriculum in Year groups 7 to 11 and in Life Skills in the Sixth Form. More information can be found here in our *PSHCE policy* and our *Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy*. The scheme of work can be found on Firefly and parents/carers can access this through the Firefly Parent Portal. This details the specific aspects of which are developed through the teaching of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme and Life Skills programme. The Drug Education Programme at SWPS is supported by external speakers from time to time and a member of staff who has specialist knowledge in the topic. The programme informs students about drugs and their effects as well as the health and social implications in the case of their misuse; it also promotes a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle and informs students about action open to them if they or people they know become involved in drugs activity.

2. Action Plan

The Head has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy regarding substance use and misuse, both in the long term and on a daily basis.

The Head will take responsibility for liaison with the media and other agencies if this is necessary.

3. Authorised medication

Please see our policy on the *Administration of Medicines in School*.

4. Substance Misuse

Smoking, the use of e-cigarettes (vapes), illegal drugs or legal 'highs' or the consumption of alcohol is strictly forbidden on school site by students, including the Sixth Form. Students are not allowed to have cigarettes, alcohol, e-cigarettes, smoking paraphernalia, illegal drugs or legal 'highs' in their possession whilst on school site. This rule applies to school trips and other school events. In exceptional circumstances, and authorised only by the Head or delegated member of the Senior Leadership Team, students over 18 may be permitted to smoke or drink moderately, for example at the Leaver's Ball.

Any case of substance misuse/supply on the school premises, or while a student is in the care of school staff, the matter will be investigated and the following action(s) taken:

Staff should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs or alcohol, or suspected misuse, are reported to the Head or any member of the Senior Leadership Team. The student will be removed to a place of safety and medical help sought if necessary. The student's parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

Although there is no legal obligation to inform the Police, they may be asked to offer relevant support and advice. If it is suspected that illegal drugs have been brought onto the premises, details regarding those involved may be passed to the Police Liaison Officer.

If a concern is raised about a student using drugs, the School reserves the right, subject to the consent of the student and the parent/carer, to medical testing by blood or urine to assess the extent of the influence of drugs on that student within school. Parent/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity and invited to be present for the testing. If the School is unable to contact the parents, a test may still be carried out, and parents will be informed as soon as possible. If the student is not in a fit state on a given day to undergo a drug test, the School may require them to do so at a later stage.

If a student fails this drugs test, appropriate disciplinary action and support will follow. The school may also undertake drug testing of random groups of students should a concern be raised about

illicit drug use within the student body. The aim of such testing is both for deterrent purposes and to ensure that students at risk can be supported and their parents/carers informed.

The Head will decide on the sanctions to be applied to those involved in accordance with the school's disciplinary procedures. The supply of illicit substances to other students will be treated with the utmost seriousness and may result in permanent exclusion. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed in accordance with safeguarding procedures and any necessary pastoral support or Early Help will be actioned as appropriate.

5. Screening, Searching and Confiscation

In the event of any requirement to search the property of individual students the school will have regard to the advice set out in the document [Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools](#) (July 2022) which explains the school's powers of screening, searching and confiscation.

Parents/carers and students should be aware that any student involved in the possession, supply or use of illegal substances is at risk of permanent exclusion.

Students are encouraged to confide in members of staff about matters of concern, which may include the misuse of substances. However, confidentiality must never be promised and, for the sake of the student(s) concerned and the rest of the school community, issues of this nature must be reported to the relevant people, including the Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

6. Availability, Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body is ultimately responsible for the effective oversight, review and amendment of this policy and understands its legal obligation to do so.

This document will be reviewed and updated annually by the Deputy Head Pastoral or as events or legislation requires.

The content of the Drugs Education programme for each year-group is in the PSHCE Scheme of Work which is reviewed every year and is available from the Head of PSHCE.

Next scheduled review date: May 2026 Last reviewed: May 2025	
Key updates in this version:	None