



# Substance Misuse Policy

Policy Name:	Substance Misuse Policy			Review Date:	Every 3 Years
				19/10/2018	19/10/2021
Presented to the Pastoral Committee:	Date:	Adopted by the Full Governing Body:	Date:	Chair of Governors Signature:	
	19/10/2018		13/12/2018		

# QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

## 1 CONTEXT

- 1.1 This policy deals with substances that can be obtained legally in society, such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, E-cigarettes and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and those which are illegal such as cannabis, legal highs, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD and includes all associated equipment and 'drug paraphernalia'. (Please note: This list is not intended to be exhaustive and will vary from time to time, at the sole discretion of the Head teacher)
- 1.2 Queen's Park High School believes that the possession, use and supply of drugs is wholly unacceptable. None of the drugs covered in this policy or any other substance that may be used as a narcotic, are permitted to be bought, sold, brought, left or otherwise obtained during the school day, including when students are on school trips and visits. (Individual exceptions should be made for students who need to take prescribed medicines when normal school procedures should be followed).

## 2 FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Queen's Park High School:
- a Is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
  - b Acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.
  - c Acknowledges the need to be aware and sensitive to the fact that some children may be living with parents/carers with a history of a drug abuse.
  - d Believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people regarding the consequences of drug use.

## 3 STATEMENT OF POLICY

- 3.1 Queen's Park High School:
- a Will view as wholly unacceptable the possession, use or handling of drugs including alcohol by members of the school community or the illegal supply of these substances.
  - b Will impose sanctions on anyone who contravenes this. This may include permanent exclusion for the first offence.

## **4 DEALING WITH DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

### **4.1 Staff must:**

- a Know and understand the school's procedures for managing drug incidents.
- b Ensure a fair and thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding the investigation.
- c Inform the Headteacher or a member of the Leadership Group immediately who will inform parents and carers of the allegation and share the evidence with them.
- d Remove the substance for later disposal by the school or if necessary testing by the Police.

4.2 Where possession is suspected, students may be asked to empty their pockets, bags and/or lockers which may be searched by senior members of staff with at least one independent staff witness. If a student refuses, then a senior member of staff will contact the police and parents and the School reserves the right to allow the Police to use sniffer dogs if requested.

## **5 SANCTIONS**

5.1 The school believes the possession and use of drugs and/or illegal substances in school, on the school site or its local vicinity at any time during or around the school day, when in school uniform, is unacceptable. All drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be brought to, used, sold, supplied, passed on, distributed or obtained on the school premises or school transport.

Any breaking of these rules will result in punishment, including in the most extreme cases permanent exclusion. The type of punishment cannot be categorically stated as it will depend on the exact nature and the degree of the offence and repetition of the offence.

The school employs a variety of sanctions related to the offence, including fixed term exclusions and school based activities. Parents will be informed of all offences. Parents/Carers will be informed throughout the investigation.

## **6 POLICE LIAISON**

6.1 The school will inform the police of offences if considered appropriate. The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 makes it an offence to possess or supply drugs and allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence provided that it is handed in or immediately destroyed.

## **7 REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- 7.1 All incidents will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents will be recorded and filed confidentially. Any substance confiscated will be disposed of in front of a witness and details recorded, or if necessary, forwarded for testing by the police. Such details will be held by the Headteacher.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION**

### **8 PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AT RISK**

- 8.1 We will endeavour to offer appropriate support and counselling to students who are drug users/misusers.
- 8.2 The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of the PSHCE curriculum that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills.
- 8.3 Drugs education will:
- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills.
  - Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles.
  - Provide accurate information about substances.
  - Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.

### **9 HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS**

- 9.1 In seeking to ensure the Health and Safety of all students:
- The school site is regularly checked by the Site Management staff for visible signs of drug use (see Table 3 – Objects that may indicate Substance misuse).
  - Dangerous items will be removed in an appropriate manner.
  - Liaison with persons outside the school premises will be actively discouraged by supervision of contact areas.
  - Any drug-related medical emergency will initially be assessed by a trained first-aider where available. Professional help will then be called and the Headteacher notified.

## **10 INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS**

10.1 It is the school's policy to work closely with parents/carers and inform parents/carers of any suspicion of drug use (legal or otherwise).

## **FURTHER GUIDELINES FOR STAFF**

### **11 SIGNS OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

11.1 Early detection of drugs misuse is very important. If a young person's substance misuse is identified at an early stage it is easier for action to be taken to prevent or the further misuse of drugs. The following tables outline possible warning signs that may give cause for concern.

#### **Warning Signs in Individuals**

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities.
- Decline in performance in school work.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked mood swings, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in an older age group.
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money.
- Stealing money or property.
- Excessive tiredness without cause.
- No interest in physical appearance.
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose.
- Lack of appetite.
- Heavy use of scents, colognes etc. to disguise the smell of drugs.
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils).

#### **Warning Signs in Groups**

- Regular absence on certain days.
- Keeping at a distance from other students, away from supervision points (eg. Groups who frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field).
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking.
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises.
- Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person (eg. Perhaps to shop-lift solvents).
- Use of drug-takers' slang.
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances.
- Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group.

## **Objects that may indicate Substance misuse**

- Foil containers or cup shapes made from silver foil, perhaps discoloured by heat.
- Plastic bottles adapted by the addition of tubes or holes, possibly including small amounts of silver paper.
- Metal tins.
- Spoons discoloured by heat.
- Pill boxes.
- Plastic, cellophane or meal foil wrappers.
- Small plastic or glass phials or bottles.
- Twists of paper.
- Straws.
- Sugar Lumps.
- Syringes and needles.
- Cigarette papers and lighters.
- Spent matches.
- Plastic bags or butane gas containers (solvent abuse).
- Cardboard or other tubes (heroin).
- Stamps, stickers, transfers or similar items.
- Shredded cigarettes, home-rolled cigarettes and pipes (cannabis).
- Paper (about 2 inches square) folders to form an envelope (heroin).