



Aims:

This document should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies and will help to:

- Ensure Nether Stowe is free from illegal drugs (and solvents)
- Provide a secure framework within which staff can operate with confidence
- Explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

THE DEFINITION OF A DRUG

The following list outlines the categories which could be defined as 'drugs':

- Drugs which are controlled/illegal substances (e.g. cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines, including those used improperly, which can include sleeping tablets and slimming tablets – as described by the Medicines Act 1968.
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, solvents and poppers
- Drugs which are misused to enhance performance (e.g. steroids)

DEFINING A DRUG INCIDENT

A drug incident in school could involve suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving unauthorised drugs. It could fit into the following categories:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- A student is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- A student is found to be a supplier of drugs on school premises
- A student is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A student is displaying signs of illness or inappropriate behaviour as a result of substance misuse
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- A student discloses that they are misusing drugs or a family member/friend is misusing drugs
- A parent/carer is thought to be under the influence of drugs on school premises and / or glamorising the use of drugs via social media

Incidents involving staff would be referred to other policies covering the work place.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

These can be broken down into the following categories:

a) **Found Substance** – This includes actual substances and/or evidence of substance use, i.e. empty aerosols, discarded needles, empty bottles, pipes etc; and/or where a substance or an indication of substance use is found on school grounds

b) **Possession of Substances** – where a student is found to be in possession. Possession can include: found on the person; found within their belongings; found within their control (i.e. school locker)

c) **Supply and Possession with Intent to Supply** – if a student is found in possession of a larger amount of any substance, consideration should be given to the possibility of the student supplying to others and information relating to this should be provided on the Safeguarding Concern form.

In the case of Class A drugs, the school has a legal obligation to report the incident to the Police; however, we would always liaise with the PCSOs or Police to obtain advice in any drug -possession related incident.



d) **Disclosure by a young person** – A student discloses own involvement with drugs; student discloses, or school discovers a parent/carer/relative/friend using or selling drugs; parent/other person seeks advice from school about (possible) drug use by student.

RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS

Each incident will be managed according to individual circumstances. There are a range of responses that will be considered including the following:

- **Contacting local Police**
 - Referral to T3 (Staffordshire's Young Person's Substance Misuse Service)
 - Referral to School Nurse
 - Referral to Safeguarding (via First Response)
 - Risk Assessment
 - Managed move
 - Fixed Term / Permanent exclusion

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the student and those around them. If necessary, it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

The school may choose to exercise its rights under the DfE "Searching, Screening and Confiscation" guidelines, January 2018, to conduct a search of the student's bag / pockets / locker – *"Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item."*

The DfE offers the following guidance on Excluding students for Drug Related Incidents.

"Any response to drug-related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take schools should follow their own disciplinary procedures. Exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug incident and permanent exclusion should only be used in serious cases. Drug use can be a symptom of other problems and schools should be ready to involve or refer pupils to other services when needed. It is important that schools are aware of the relevant youth and family support services available in their local area." (DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools, 2012).

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools, January 2016, the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- wearing school uniform or
- in some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.



The table below details the school's response:

Incident	School Response	Outcome for student
Student found in possession of drugs	Contact police Contact parent	Fixed term or permanent exclusion
Student suspected of being under the influence of drugs (<i>does not admit to this</i>)	Administer medical First Aid if required Call an ambulance, if risk is deemed sufficiently high Search student's bag / locker Contact parent Referral to T3 Risk Assessment to be written (by Safeguarding Lead)	Sent home, if deemed unfit for school <u>or</u> Monitored closely throughout the day (in Internal Exclusion or the LSU) Random bag search implemented Concerns in writing to parents (unless overridden by safeguarding considerations)
Student suspected of being under the influence of drugs (<i>admits to this</i>)	Administer medical First Aid if required Call an ambulance, if risk is deemed sufficiently high Search student's bag / locker Contact parent Referral to T3 Risk Assessment to be written (by Safeguarding Lead)	Possible fixed term exclusion Expectation to engage with T3 Sent home, if deemed unfit for school <u>or</u> Monitored closely throughout the day (in Internal Exclusion or the LSU) Random bag search implemented Risk assessment adhered to as condition of reintegration
Student repeatedly under the influence of drugs or repeated suspicion of being under the influence of drugs		At risk of permanent exclusion – repeated breach of the school's Behaviour Policy

All drug related incidents (whether proven or not) must be recorded via the student's Shared Information.