



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

School Improvement Committee

Substance Abuse Policy

October 2023

Review Date: September 2027

Company No. 07560175

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Founder Patron: Earl Mountbatten of Burma Headmaster: Andrew Portas Patron: The Honourable Alexandra Knatchbull

This policy has been developed with the involvement of teaching staff, Trustees, the School Council and Hampshire Constabulary. It draws on guidance from the DfE and ACPO advice for Schools (issued September 2012) Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies and the Government Drug Strategy 2010 *Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery*.

A copy of the policy has been circulated to all teaching staff at the school. The policy was adopted on 10 January 2012 and will be reviewed every four years, or as required with any changes in legislation or DFE guidance. The policy and Drugs Education will be reviewed through the School Improvement Committee.

The policy connects with the school policies for Personal Development.

The purpose of the policy is to set out how the school will educate staff and students of the negative effects that drugs can have on peoples' lives, to support students when appropriate and to deal with any issues of drugs possession within the school.

The school's stance towards drugs

This school condones neither the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco nor the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community

This school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to encourage students to make informed decisions in order to promote a healthy lifestyle. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is health and safety and the pastoral care of students.

Definitions:

Drugs

In this policy the term 'drug' is used to include:

- (i) illegal substances
- (ii) substances which are legal but can be misused

- Some of these substances would not be acceptable for possession and use by students on school premises, e.g., alcohol and tobacco.
- Other substances, for example, glue, solvents and over-the-counter medicines, would be acceptable for possession and use on school premises, provided this is for their proper, intended purpose.

In School

'In school' is taken to mean on school premises, including buildings and grounds. This can extend beyond the school gates when a student is wearing school uniform or travelling on the school bus. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips, including those abroad. The policy relates to students' use of the premises and grounds beyond the

school day. The policy also covers use of the school's facilities and grounds by the community, including students, out of school hours.

The policy also relates to possession of illegal drugs by parents/carers and any visitors to the school.

Drugs Education

Education about drugs is an integral part of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) programme in school.

The programme aims:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills;
- to provide accurate information about substances;
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use;
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g., sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS;
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Emphasis is placed on developing interpersonal skills in order to equip young people to deal with challenging situations throughout life.

Year assemblies are run for drugs awareness/education, and this includes presentations from agencies such as HM Prison Service.

The teaching of drug education will be monitored and assessed by the teacher in charge of RSHE in conjunction with their line manager. The Assistant Headteacher and the Safeguarding Team will give guidance on the delivery of drug education.

Staff support and training

There will be on-going CPD for all staff. This might include basic drug awareness (including the use of vapes), safe disposal of drug related paraphernalia, drug education training for teachers and specific training on supporting young people with drug related problems for staff with a pastoral responsibility.

Professional development may take a variety of forms such as:

- Training courses – both face-to-face and online
- Shadowing or co-teaching with other members of staff
- Visiting other schools.

Management of Drugs in School (including police involvement)

- If a student is found in possession of drugs (including legal drugs) at school, the parents will always be informed
- If a student is found in possession of a substance suspected of being illegal the school will inform the police
- A member of staff, directed by SLT, may search a student's locker, or school bag, or other school property where (s)he has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs. There should be a witness present and a receipt given for any item removed
- Where students are suspected of concealing drugs, they will be encouraged to produce these voluntarily. If a student refuses, the police will be called in to deal with the situation
- Any suspected illegal drugs can be lawfully seized by staff and retained in locked storage pending the arrival of police. Staff seizing suspected drugs should avoid any skin contact with the drugs if possible, and preserve any relevant packaging
- Any parent/carer suspected to be in under the influence of drugs may be asked to leave school premises
- Any member of staff found in possession of suspected illegal drugs will be dealt with through this policy and any relevant internal discipline policy, and national policy relating to professional standards. This will be dealt with by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Sanctions and Support

In dealing with a child involved with drugs the school has to consider the good of the whole community as well as that of the individual.

Individual incidents will be dealt with according to the circumstances involved. Sanctions will be designed to ensure the student's continued education and support for his/her wellbeing. An initial drug-related offence (other than supplying or intending to supply) may be a fixed term or permanent exclusion. A subsequent drug-related offence will lead to a permanent exclusion. Students will be offered appropriate counselling and support as available within the school and parents may be offered contacts with agencies who offer support to young people overcoming drug related problems. The school child protection procedures may be invoked if there is significant concern for a child's safety.

When all other reasonable steps have been taken, or depending on the gravity of the situation, it may prove necessary to exclude the child from school, and in extreme cases to make a permanent exclusion as the final sanction.

Any person selling/supplying illegal substances or intending to sell/supply illegal substances on the school campus will be permanently excluded from the school. The school will support the police in any resulting prosecution.

Furthermore, the school will not be available for managed moves, or 'Day 6 Provision', for students from other schools who have been excluded for drug related incidents.

The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

Drugs support

Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim 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. 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. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as Childrens Social Care, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, for the family.

The school may organise Parent and Carer Events (PACE) throughout the year to support parents/carers in accessing information regarding substances, local trends or providing access to external agencies such as Stacey Miller's Consultancy (Positivity and Prevention) and Catch 22.

There are a number of external websites or organisations that can help anyone who needs help with a drugs problem in Annex A. Some of these include;

www.talktofrank.com

<https://www.catch-22.org.uk/find-services/hampshire-247/>

Review and oversight of Substance Abuse Policy

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Assistant Headteacher) has the responsibility to oversee and co-ordinate drug issues for the school. This will include relevant contact with other schools in the local area.

Policy Agreed

Signed:

Date:

Chair of School Improvement Committee

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Trustees

Signed copy archived in school

Annex A – Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems. Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Catch 22 is a service that provides targeted, age-appropriate substance misuse services for young people. They offer a specialist approach, that helps young people to understand and address the factors driving behaviour and build their personal resilience. <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/find-services/hampshire-247/>

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>