

The NSB Trust

Drugs, solvents, controlled substances
and legal highs Policy

To be reviewed annually

This document should be read in conjunction with the related Behaviour Policy

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1. Purpose

This policy outlines the approach The NSB Trust will take to prevent, respond to, and manage incidents involving illegal drugs, solvents, and legal highs. The aim is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all members of the school community in line with national legislation and statutory guidance.

In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within The NSB Trust is not acceptable. All schools are committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of their school community.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, and visitors on The Trust's premises, during school hours, and at any event or activity associated with the school, including off-site trips.

3. Legal framework

The Trust adheres to the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Psychoactive Substances Act 2016
- Education Act 1996 & 2011
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools (DfE, latest version)
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, latest version)

4. Definitions

- Illegal Drugs: Substances listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Legal Highs: Also known as psychoactive substances; now illegal under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- Solvents: Volatile substances that may be misused for intoxication
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines

All incidents of misuse or suspected misuse of solvents or drugs will be reported as a serious incident and such incidents will be monitored.

Procedures for dealing with prescribed medication is not the remit of this documentation.

5. Prevention and education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention.

The following aims of drug education within the Trust will be consistent with the values and ethos of each school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about

1. the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 2. the rules and laws relating to drugs
 3. the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 4. local and national use
 5. the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
 6. the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 1. promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
 2. assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 3. communicating effectively
 4. resisting pressures
 5. finding information, help and advice
 6. devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 7. developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate
 8. them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
 - To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
 - To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including Talk To FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and vaping), local youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education

The Trust incorporates drug and substance misuse education into the PSHE curriculum.

All students will attend lessons in which factual information about drugs and solvents will be given. This information will be shared through Personal Development sessions, PSHE-specific lessons and assemblies. Visiting speakers and agencies may also be used to share pertinent information with students.

6. Searches and confiscation

In accordance with the Education Act 2011 and DfE guidance:

- Staff authorised by the Headteacher may search a student or their possessions, without consent, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect possession of a prohibited item, including illegal drugs and psychoactive substances
- Searches will be conducted by two members of staff, ideally of the same sex as the student. Parental contact will follow any search in which prohibited items are found
- Any substances discovered will be confiscated, securely stored, and passed to the police

7. Response to incidents

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;

- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse; illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity; involvement in 'county line' or gang-related drug issues

Staff may search property, if they believe drugs to be stored there.

If a student is found in possession of drugs, solvents, or legal highs, The Trust will take the following steps:

- Secure the safety and welfare of all involved
- Confiscate the substance and, where appropriate, involve the police. Procedures will normally include: having a second adult witness throughout; sealing the substance in a plastic bag with details of date and time and witnesses present; storage in a secure location; notifying the police; recording the full details of the incident including the police incident reference number; informing parents/carers (unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil) and identifying and following up any Safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the supply of illegal substances will be passed to the police. Emphasis throughout will be placed upon the confidential nature of all action taken as far as possible
- Notify parents/carers at the earliest opportunity
- Investigate the incident fully, considering whether it constitutes a safeguarding concern
- A detailed record of the incident will be made on the school safeguarding platform, as per the school procedures
- Apply appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension, or permanent exclusion, in line with The Trust's and schools Behaviour Policy.

If a student is believed to be under the influence of an unknown or known illegal substance, parents/carers will be informed and medical assistance sought. The young person will not be left alone. If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Safeguarding Policy will take effect, and Social Services may be contacted.

8. Support and intervention

The Trust is committed to supporting students at risk of drug misuse. A tailored support plan may be developed in consultation with the student, family, and support staff. If a pupil has been identified as at risk of drug misuse, then the school may set up targeted intervention for that pupil using services such as Northamptonshire NGAGE or the Health Service. Support may be sought from relevant external agencies (e.g. Early Help, CAMHS, or drug support services).

The Designated School Lead for Child Protection is responsible for policy relating to drugs and controlled substances. This person will be the school's liaison with the police and will agree with the police a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents.

9. Staff training

Staff will receive regular training to ensure confidence and clarity in responding to substance-related incidents and delivering effective education and support.