



DRUGS INCIDENCE POLICY

Approved by the Learning and Standards Committee

19.04.23

RENEWAL: MARCH 2026

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out how Discovery Multi academy Trust will respond to a drugs related incident in school or on a school trip. This includes solvents. In this context we are referring to any drug / drug related equipment that is found to be in the possession of a child or adult with the exception of prescribed medicines (adult) or medicines that a parent has signed consent for (child).

The Trust has a separate **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy** to cover the above.

LINKED POLICIES

- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions in School Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Alcohol, Substance and Smoking Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

AIMS

- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug-related incidents.
- To contribute towards establishing a school environment free from the misuse of any drugs.
- To support the schools work in PSHE and science to: develop a whole-Trust approach to drug education in the context of the Science curriculum and the Personal, Social, and Health Education outcomes in which our children will explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs.
- Have a clear and agreed understanding throughout the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug misuse.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Regardless of the reason for possessing them it is almost certain that any individual found to possess drugs or drugs related equipment (inc. solvents) on the school site or on a school trip / activity will be breaking the law (with the exceptions noted in the introduction).
- The Trust school sites are all totally non-smoking. This includes the use of e-cigarettes/vapes.
- Alcohol is not permitted on the school site during normal working hours (see Alcohol, Substance and Smoking Policy)

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Head of School is the designated Drugs Action Co-ordinator who will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with the CEO. Responsibility for liaising with the media lies with the CEO.

Within Personal and Social Education, the role of pupils in supporting each other and responding safely and effectively to emergencies including drug-related incidents is made clear in a manner appropriate to the age and stage of development of each child.

PROCEDURES

Medicines

The Trust policy and procedures for the administration of medicines is set out in the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions in School Policy which must be followed for the safety of all members of our school community whilst on school premises.

Tobacco

The whole school and school grounds are designated No-Smoking areas.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day.

Solvents

The schools will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely in compliance with COSHH procedures. The schools will ensure that pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosol deodorants is not permitted because of the potential risks to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.

Illegal Drugs

Illegal drugs or related equipment must never be brought to school or used on school premises.

To protect the health and safety of everyone in the schools, regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that, if drug-related equipment and/or litter are found, they are cleared away promptly.

Sanctions of appropriate severity will be applied to the possession, misuse or supply of any of the drugs described above by any member of the school community travelling to and from school, on the school premises or while on school activities, trips and visits.

RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS

Any member of staff who discovers or suspects that a pupil or adult in school is in possession of drugs on school premises should immediately inform the Head of School (or in their absence) a member of the senior team. The Head of School or senior leader will ensure that safeguarding procedures are followed and the appropriate external agencies are informed. The CEO will also be informed immediately. The same procedure will be followed for any adult.

If a pupil is found to be in possession of drugs or drug-related equipment on school premises, the parents/guardians will be informed immediately and will be asked to attend the school as a matter of urgency. In such a case, the school will also involve Devon & Cornwall Police, in line with the Safeguarding Policy.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

If it is discovered (or suspected) that a pupil or adult has taken any drug (other than in the exceptions noted above) an ambulance will immediately be called – even if they appear to be well.

Sanctions, for pupils, up to and including exclusion, will be applied for:

- possession of any drug with the suspected intention to misuse;
- misuse of drugs on school premises;
- Obtaining/supplying drugs for the purposes of misuse by self or others.

Sanctions for adults will be determined by the Trust's Board of Trustees, Adults must be in no doubt that the matter will be viewed with extreme seriousness. The police and LADO will be informed. Where proven (in addition to any action taken by the council or the police):

- for volunteers, a ban from the school site is the most likely outcome
- for employed staff it is likely that such actions will constitute gross professional misconduct and would be grounds for dismissal (in addition, for teachers the Teaching Regulation Agency; this could lead to a professional standards hearing which could result in teachers being barred from the profession for a period of time or even permanently).

NOTE-TAKING

Whether dealing with children or adults, detailed written notes must be made immediately, signed and if at all possible should be compiled with two members of staff (with the second member of staff acting as a witness). All notes should be written up on the Behaviourwatch system.