



CAISTOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

Approved by Full Board of Trustees:

March 2022

Last reviewed:

March 2022

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chair of Trustees

DRUGS, SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING LEGAL HIGHS, POLICY

Introduction

- 1.1** When the term “Drug” is used in this policy this should also be taken to include alcohol, illegal non-prescription/ prescription drugs, legal highs, tobacco, and tobacco substitutes (to include e-cigarettes and vaping equipment/ liquids) and solvents.
- 1.2** The central purpose of the School’s Drug Policy is to provide a Drugs Free Zone. The School’s students, their parents and its staff clearly understand that the Trustees will not tolerate Drugs (as defined in 1.1) being connected to the School, its students or any of its activities. Any of its students who connect Drugs to the School directly or indirectly run a very strong probability of receiving the most severe punishment available.
- 1.3** The School also seeks to reduce the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people and to reduce the health risks and other damage caused to individuals and society by drug use.
- 1.4** The curricular framework for teaching about drugs has already been provided by the National Curriculum science orders, which lay down that:
 - At Key Stage 3 Students should be taught that the abuse of solvents, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs affects health.
 - At Key Stage 4 Students should be taught the effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on body functions.

Drugs education is firmly placed within the School’s PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Programme).

- 1.5** The Board of Trustees wishes to see a coherent whole school policy so that any references to drugs in any curriculum area reinforce other teaching about drugs and drug use.

Other policies:

- (BF) PSHEE Policy
- (BG) Visiting Speaker Policy
- (CC) Behaviour Policy
- (CI) Exclusion Policy
- (DD) Whistleblowing Policy
- (DL) Staff Disciplinary Policy
- (GA) Safeguarding and Child Protections Policy

Statement of policy on drug use

- 2.1** The School will not allow the use of drugs, as defined in 1.1, nor the supply of any of these substances or similar substitutes to anyone.
- 2.2** The School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- 2.3** The 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 persuade students in need of support to seek help.
- 2.4** The School believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use as part of the school's PSHEE programme and as part of Health Education.

Policy on Drugs-related Incidents

- 3.1** The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation for liaison with the Board of Trustees, parents or legal guardians and appropriate outside agencies. The Deputy Head i/c of the Pastoral System, working with the Heads of Section, tutors and teachers will have general responsibility for the handling of the daily implementation of this policy.
- 3.2** In instances involving substance use or supply, which includes offering for no reward, on the school premises, at, on the way to or from, or sufficiently connected to school events or on school visits, following discussion between staff who know the student well, parents or legal guardians will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher. The police will be informed and will be asked to give relevant support and advice during the investigation.
- 3.3** Simulating the supply of the possession of, or the taking of, drugs (as defined in 1.1) harms the population of the School and undermines our ethos. Any such incidents will be dealt with severely.
- 3.4** The School will consider each drugs incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with such incidents. The School will seek to balance the interests of the student involved, the other School members and the local community.
 - Students supplying, which includes offering for no reward, any of the items listed in 1.1 to other Students on school premises, at, on the way to or from, or sufficiently connected to, school events or on school visits will risk being permanently excluded, in order to give a clear message to all members of the school community that schools should be drug-free areas. As with all exclusions of over five days, parents will have a right of appeal to the Appeals panel of the Governing Body.

- Students taking or in possession of or arranging to buy drugs as defined in 1.1 in the circumstances outlined above will face permanent or temporary exclusion.
- Any student facing either temporary or permanent exclusion will be offered advice about a range of counselling available in the local community or through the Health Authority.

3.5 If a student wishes to make a disclosure to a teacher about the use of substances, the teacher must inform the student that confidentiality cannot be maintained in circumstances where the law has been broken and may suggest confidential counselling services available in the local area, which the student may prefer to access. If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off site, the teacher will inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who will inform the Headteacher, who will inform the parents or legal guardians.

3.6 If a member of staff suspects that a student has brought drugs as defined in 1.1 into School, the member of staff can search a student's bag and can ask them to turn out their bags and pockets but if this is refused, the police, who have clear powers of search, should be called in to continue the search. A member of staff should always ensure that another member of staff is present as a witness when conducting a search. If any drug (as defined in 1.1) is found, staff should not try to test the substance themselves but should hand the substance over to the Headteacher who will hand it to the police for analysis.

3.7 If a student suffers physical collapse or intoxication resulting from experimenting with drugs as defined in 1.1, staff should call on the school's trained first aiders and should call for immediate medical help. The Headteacher should always be notified, and attempts should be made to contact the student's parents or legal guardians.

3.8 As part of the School's general responsibility for the health and safety of students, the School will seek to ensure the careful control of the movement and safe storage of volatile substances used for Science experiments or cleaning on the school premises.

3.9 Following a drug-related incident, the Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, in discussion with the Chair of Trustees, or in their absence, the Deputy Chair. Comment will be restricted to a press release prepared in advance by the Headteacher, in order to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

Aims of the School's Drugs Education Programme

4.1 The following aims of the school are particularly relevant to this Drugs Policy:

- Promoting the students' good health and understanding of their bodies.
- Developing the students' self-esteem and self-respect.
- Helping students prepare for a happy and fulfilling adult life.

4.2 The following objectives form part of our Policy:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, and developing and practising skills of self-assertion.
- To provide accurate information about drugs.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use, including the law.
- To encourage an understanding of the risks and dangers for those who may be using or likely to be tempted to use drugs.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g., sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Fulfilling these Aims and Objectives

- 5.1** Within the curriculum, these aims, and objectives will be addressed mainly in Science, PSHEE and RE but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme such as in English and as part of the tutorial programme.
- 5.2** The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as local healthcare organisations, Community Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use. Visitors who support the school in this way will be informed of the values embodied in this policy on the School website.
- 5.3** Parents or legal guardians will be informed of this Policy in the school's Prospectus and on the School's website and students will be given the opportunity, at regular intervals to attend drugs awareness sessions provided for the school by the Police and Health Authority. Specific mention will be made of this Policy at the New Parents Evening in the Autumn Term of Year 7.
- 5.4** Young people will be kept informed about sources of support, which will include the following:
- School Counsellors available for three days a week
 - Posters displayed around school and a page in the student diary planner giving telephone numbers of various support and counselling agencies
 - Reference to drugs awareness in assemblies, PSHEE, visiting speakers, etc.
- Students may also wish to seek help from members of staff but must realise that, if a breach of the law is reported, members of staff may not be able to maintain confidentiality.
- 5.5** Staff will receive regular training either in-house or on courses run by the LA, the Health Authority, training organisation or the police. Trustees will have regard to DfE Guidance on Drugs Education and Policy in Schools. New staff will be informed of the school's policy as part of their induction. Training should include an awareness of warning signs that could indicate that a student is using drugs.

