

## 9b Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking

Scope:	Whole School including EYFS
Release date:	May 2024
Review date:	April 2025
Author:	Assistant Head Pastoral
Reviewer:	Head and Board of Governors

### Linked documents

In writing this policy we have referred to the following guidance:

[Behaviour and Discipline in Schools - A guide for headteachers and school staff \(February 2024\)](#)  
[Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

### Availability

This policy is available to parents and prospective parents on the school website, and a printed copy may be requested from the School Office.

### Acronyms

Senior Leadership Team - SLT

New psychoactive substances - NPS

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education - PSHE

## **Policy Statement**

Derby Grammar School is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and employees and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the School's general ethos. It will seek to provide the support pupils need to avoid the problems of substance abuse.

Certain activities are forbidden at School. These include: smoking, using illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances (previously referred to as 'legal highs') and e-cigarettes, gambling and drinking alcohol. Being with anyone breaking these rules is also a serious breach of School discipline. The possession and/or supply of materials associated with these forbidden activities are extreme breaches of School regulations.

## **Illegal Drugs and NPSs**

Derby Grammar School believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs and substances use and misuse:

- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims are fulfilled through a PSHE programme, and pastoral care; help and advice are always available from staff. The School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the local Police and Social Services to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. The policy will be reviewed regularly and in the light of any drug related incidents.

There will be no random tests of pupils for drug abuse. However, if there is reason to suspect that a particular pupil has been misusing drugs, the Head reserves the right to authorise a test of a urine sample.

## **Investigation**

The School will investigate any rumour about involvement with drugs or substances. The investigation may involve segregating a pupil; asking him/her questions; asking him/her to give a written account of circumstances; searching his/her personal belongings; taking possession of property for analysis; and asking the pupil to provide a urine sample under appropriate supervision. Investigations will be conducted fairly and in accordance with natural justice. Interviews will normally be carried out by the Head or member of the SLT as delegated by the Head. All searching will be conducted in accordance with the DfE guidelines "[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)"

The pupil should be accompanied at interview by a member of staff. Parents will be kept informed so far as is practicable. Sources of information will not normally be disclosed.

## **Testing Policy**

A test will only be required following consultation between relevant pastoral staff and the Head, or in the absence of the latter, the Assistant Head Pastoral. Wherever possible a pupil's parents will be informed by telephone before a test is conducted.

The following procedure will be adopted in such circumstances:

- In the first instance, the Head will try to ascertain what substance has allegedly been taken to consider whether the SureScreen urine point of care test kit is suitable for screening purpose.

- If suitable, a member of the SLT will carry out a drug test using a urine point of care testing kit supplied by SureScreen. This test will screen the urine sample for a range of different substances and will give a result in a matter of minutes.
- If it is unclear what substance may have been taken or if the SureScreen urine point of care test kit is not suitable, then two urine samples will be collected using recognised procedures to ensure that the samples are genuine and not interfered with in any way between the donor and the testing laboratory. These samples will then be forwarded to SureScreen for analysis in their laboratory at the School's expense.
- In the event that a pupil should provide a positive drug test using the SureScreen urine point of care test kit, they will then be offered a second urine test using the return to laboratory urine tests again supplied by SureScreen at the School's expense.
- Two urine samples will be collected by a member of the SLT using recognised procedures to ensure that the samples are genuine and not interfered with in any way between the donor and the testing laboratory. These samples will then be forwarded to SureScreen for analysis in their laboratory.
- The written consent of the pupil will be obtained before the samples are collected, and parents will be informed as soon as is possible. (see Appendix 1)
- The results of the tests will be communicated to the Head, who will exercise his discretion over the action then to be taken regarding the pupil's future.

The Urine Testing Policy is designed to be constructive and to support those pupils most at risk from drug taking, to dispel ill-founded suspicion of drug taking and to act as a general and efficient deterrent.

The School recognises that teenagers can be vulnerable to drug abuse when the brain and body are still developing and can lead to a wide range of adverse effects on the brain, body, behaviour and health. Substance abuse use can create challenges which impact on every aspect of an individual's life, potentially leading to health issues and affecting life both at home and at school.

The drugs sanction policy allows the School to exercise clemency where it is merited, or give support and advice to those who need it. The primary purpose of drug testing is not to punish students but to prevent drug abuse and to help students to become drug free and from developing a drug problem. It aims to encourage honesty and in certain circumstances to allow a pupil to recognise that he or she has made a grave mistake and to strive to make amends for it within the School.

### **Sanctions**

Any pupils selling or distributing drugs or NPSs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption can expect to be expelled in line with the policy on Permanent Exclusion.

Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs or NPSs whilst in School in term time loses any right to continued membership of the School and must expect expulsion to be a very strong possibility.

The Head has a duty to contact the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it constitutes a criminal offence.

If the only firm evidence that a pupil has been involved with drugs is a positive urine test, he or she may be allowed to stay provided that he or she gives a written assurance to the Head and to his/her parents that he/she will not become involved with illegal drugs again; agrees to undergo the urine tests at various times during his/her remaining school career. (See Appendix 2)

The same undertakings will also be required of any pupils who may be allowed back after an offence because of mitigating circumstances. Any subsequent offence involving illegal drugs or NPS offence will result in expulsion.

Parents of pupils who have been involved in an illegal drugs or a NPS related incident and have been allowed back to School on condition of parental consent to testing will be charged for tests according to the Consent Form.

Parents have the right to appeal as detailed in the parents' complaints procedure.

### **Alcohol Policy**

Pupils are forbidden from drinking alcohol at School.

The misuse of alcohol or its illegal purchasing and/or supply will not be tolerated.

Alcoholic drinks may not be purchased during the school day nor can they be brought into School by pupils.

Action will be taken to promote and maintain the health and safety of members of the School.

Pupils will receive information and guidance concerning health, safety and social issues with regard to alcohol. This is available through the PSHE programme and as part of pastoral support.

#### **Sanctions**

Each case will be considered on its own merits but as a general rule the consumption of alcohol and/or intoxication will be deemed particularly serious breaches of discipline. Parents and/or guardians will be informed. Subsequent offences may result in suspension from School, and in extreme cases expulsion.

### **Smoking Policy**

Smoking, including the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and related products, is forbidden on School premises.

School regulations apply whenever pupils are in the care of the School, including school visits, social occasions etc. Pupils must abide by the law as well as School regulations. No pupil under the age of 18 may purchase tobacco products or e-cigarettes and related products.

There are serious health risks associated with smoking. This policy and the School's approach to the issue aim to encourage an educated, informed understanding of the problems connected with smoking. The PSHE programme and pastoral staff help fulfil these aims.

#### **Sanctions**

Staff finding pupils smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes will be given an after school detention and parents and/or guardians will be informed.

Continued abuse of the smoking regulations may result in suspension.

**Appendix 1**

**Consent to drug testing**

There has been reason to believe that you may have in your possession or consumed an illegal substance.

Derby Grammar School has a duty of care to its pupils and as part of that duty we will be undertaking a drug test by testing a sample of your urine.

Please read the information leaflets provided on any current medication and then please sign the consent form allowing us to test you.

Name of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth. \_\_\_\_\_

Address. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pupil's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Head's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 2**

**Consent to Drugs Testing Support Programme**

DATE .....

FULL NAME OF PUPIL .....

PUPIL'S DATE OF BIRTH ..... AGE NOW .....

I/WE the persons having parental responsibility for the above-named pupil have been informed that the pupil has admitted possession of controlled drugs on/off School premises within the last thirty days.

I/WE and the pupil recognise that unlawful possession or use of a controlled drug by a pupil on/ off School premises is a criminal offence and a serious breach of School discipline which entitles the Head to expel or to require permanent removal of a pupil from the School.

The Head, in this instance only and as an alternative to expulsion/removal of the pupil, has offered the pupil a supportive testing regime for a period of 12 months from today which I/we and the pupil wish to accept. In this consent form "sample" means a sample of the pupil's urine (taken in accordance with the School's Procedures for Testing) which will be sent for standard screening to an independent laboratory.

I/We understand that the regime will be conducted in the following manner:

- 1. Within 24 hours of this consent being signed (or within another period as the Head shall specify) the pupil will, with a supervisor, meet a member of the SLT and provide a sample of urine where a point of care test will be carried out in the Medical Room enabling a swift result. A second sample will be forwarded to the Laboratory for a more in depth result if necessary.
- 2. Thereafter, the Head may require the pupil to go to the Medical Room and to provide a further sample on up to three occasions during a school term without prior notice.
- 3. It will not be a pre-condition that the Head or any member of staff has formed a suspicion of the pupil's being in possession of, or having recently used a controlled drug, for there to be a requirement to provide a sample.
- 4. The existence of this regime together with any requirement for a sample to be given, the taking of the sample and the communication of results shall be treated as confidential information within a circle of confidentiality which includes the Head, the Bursar and any other members of staff for whom the information is deemed necessary. The School cannot accept responsibility (unless negligent) if such information becomes more widely known among other members of staff or pupils.
- 5. Every sample will be given, certified and sent for testing in accordance with the School's Testing Policy (see: Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy). A copy of the policy, which can be found on the School website, will be provided upon the written request of a parent. There will be no reference to urine tests for drugs on the permanent medical record of a pupil.
- 6. The cost of each test shall be charged to the pupil's account as an extra payable by the parents.
- 7. The School does not undertake to require samples to be given three times per term or at all.

The above-named pupil has read and understood this form. She/he agrees to accept this regime as a condition of remaining at the School and to give his/her full co-operation. She/he understands that if the Head acting on information is of the opinion that the pupil has failed to co-operate or if a test proves positive there may be no alternative to the pupil's expulsion or removal from the School.

The pupil while at School is a full member of the school community to whom the standard terms and conditions of the School and all other rules and regulations for the time being in force will apply.

First Signature .....

Second Signature .....

Full Name (1st) .....

Full Name (2nd) .....

Relationship to pupil (1st) .....

Relationship to pupil (2nd) .....

Pupil's Full Name .....

Pupil's Signature ..... Date.....

Head's Signature ..... Date.....