

Substance Misuse Policy

The KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL



Approved by:	Board of Governors	Date: January 2025
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Next review due by:	January 2027
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Substance Use/Misuse

The school's ethos is the Jewish ethos which teaches our children to know, when the need arises, how to say NO.

The possession of illegal drugs on the campus is absolutely prohibited.

The school's learning for life programme, science lessons, and the assistance of outside organisations will be involved in educating the pupils on the use and misuse of substances.

Principles

- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school condemns vaping, smoking and the misuse of drugs or alcohol by its members and the supply of illegal substances to its members.
- Drug misuse damages not only the individuals directly involved but also their families, the schools and the wider community.
- Drugs can cause under-achievement, ill health, suffering and even death.
- The headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, and appropriate outside agencies.
- Pupils suspected of being involved in drug-related activities will be subject to a detailed investigation.
- Sanctions will be applied for any infringements of the rules relating to vaping, alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other items which could include suspensions/exclusions as detailed below.
- Offenders should expect the school to inform the police about illegal drug-related incidents.
- Parents can contact the school for advice if they have concerns about possible drug involvement by their child.

DRUGS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Procedures

All cases of suspected or reported drug possession must be investigated, which may entail following up rumour or hearsay.

Parents will always be informed if there appears to be any grounds to the suspicions.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, health and drug agencies to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents.

The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupils/students involved, the other school members and the local community.

Following all investigations a written report must be given to the Headteacher.

General guidance for staff responding to allegations or incidents

It is important to respond rapidly.

Consult with the relevant pastoral staff or senior leadership team (SLT).

See any pupil or pupils involved. Although an individual member of staff may undertake initial interviews concerning incidents, where allegations concerning illegal or harmful substances have been made. If more than one pupil is involved avoid the pupils concerned talking with each other until initial questioning has been completed.

Keep a written record.

Collate information and take advice about further action.

Following all investigations a written report must be presented to a member of the SLT.

Where a pupil discloses misuse of illegal or harmful substances off the premises, a member of staff should use safeguarding procedures to notify key individuals (CPOMS).

Confiscation & Disposal: will follow to Department for Education guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

For details of how the school will respond to concerns that a pupil may be involved in “county lines” drug related activity, see the school’s Safeguarding policy.

Dealing with illegal substances

If a pupil reports alleged drug possession:

- take the matter seriously but calmly
- take the pupil reporting the matter out of the public arena; interview the pupil in a place where the interview cannot be overheard

Keep a written account of:

- the statements the pupil makes (this account may be written up later)
- the questions you ask
- the answers the pupil gives

Caution is required because the whole truth is not always forthcoming in the first instance. If subsequent actions are taken based on what amounts to half-truths this can serve only to exacerbate the situation.

The informer may wish for confidence at this stage; this cannot be guaranteed. You can however assure them that they are doing right by talking to you and that you will do your best to protect them.

Dealing with the discovery of harmful substances which are suspected to be illegal.

From a place:

- remove the substance from where it was discovered, ideally in the presence of a witness
- the substance should be handed to a member of the SLT as soon as possible

From a person:

- when receiving or retrieving substances from a pupil, do so, if possible in the presence of a witness
- in the absence of a witness, do not put off receiving substances, or, within bounds of your professional discretion, removing a suspicious substance from a pupil's possession
- always ask the pupil to hand the substance to you

if the request is refused, take the pupil to a member of SLT and explain the situation (for details of when it may be appropriate to search to pupil's clothing and belongings. See Department for Education Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

The following guidelines should be observed once a substance has been received or retrieved:

- record the time, place and circumstance when the substance came into your possession
- do not investigate the nature of the substance, but do record/photograph its approximate size and appearance
- when possible, do so in the presence of a witness
- take the substance immediately to a member of SLT. Do not keep the substance on your person or in a place of safekeeping; doing so may place you at risk
- in the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with substance use pupils should not be allowed to handle such items. All equipment found must be handled by adults with utmost care

Dealing with other potentially harmful substances

- arrange for medical attention for the pupil or send him or her to hospital if necessary
- send a sample of the substance or packaging to hospital with the pupil.
- ascertain when the substance was used and, if possible, how much
- confiscate apparatus and substance

Dealing with a pupil found intoxicated:

- a pupil found intoxicated should be removed from the company of other pupils
- s/he should be given appropriate treatment and may require medical attention
- if the pupil is capable of understanding questions and giving answers, the pupil should be interviewed
- try to ascertain what was consumed and in what quantity
- ascertain when and where consumption took place
- ascertain whether the pupil consumed alone or in company of others
- if necessary, arrange for the removal of the pupil from the premises. Unless removal from school has to be undertaken by ambulance this would be best effected by the parents

Dealing with a pupil found vaping or smoking:

- inform the pupil that you have reason to believe that they were vaping/smoking. State your evidence
- ask them if they admit to vaping/smoking
- if they deny vaping/smoking, inform the pupil of the evidence that will be placed before the Head of Year
- any vape or tobacco product should be confiscated
- if the pupil is under 16 the source of the vape or tobacco product should be investigated.

The Law

Under the current Misuse of Drugs Act / Regulations it is an offence

- to offer or supply drugs to another person
- to be in possession of drugs or to possess drugs with the intention of supplying them to another person
- for the occupier or manager of premises knowingly to permit the use of drugs on those premises or allow their supply or production

No offence of possession is committed if a person has taken possession of a drug to prevent another person from committing an offence and he or she has taken reasonable steps to pass the drug into the safekeeping of someone lawfully entitled to take custody of it or to destroy the drug.

Under the Intoxicating Substance (Supply) Act 1985 it is an offence knowingly to supply people under the age of 18 with substances which may be inhaled to cause intoxication. The possession of solvents is not illegal. Some solvents are quite properly kept in school and it is important that their storage is secure and their use controlled.

Terminology and the implications of the law relating to drugs

Supplying means offering to supply, even if unable to fulfil the offer and includes giving a drug to a friend

Trading means selling or exchanging for something of value

Own use assumes that the substance was obtained outside school and was not offered to, given to or sold to anybody else

Further action likely to follow the report and investigation of a drug-related incident

- informing staff of the basic facts on a need to know basis
- informing parents
- speaking to forms or year groups
- seeing pupils as necessary with appropriate advice and possible sanctions
- Pupils who are involved in supplying or trading drugs must expect to be permanently excluded from school
- Pupils caught in possession of drugs for their own use will be suspended and are likely to be permanently excluded
- Following a drug-related offence, the school reserves the right to require medical evidence that the pupil is no longer using illegal substances. That evidence may take the form of drug testing. The responsibility for obtaining and presenting such evidence will rest solely with the pupil's parents or legal guardian

Involvement of parents and agencies external to the school

Police

When a drug-related problem comes to light contact may be made with the police.

When possession is for own use only the police may not ask for names to be passed on. For all other categories of offence, the police will require names.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police of substance possession, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, supply or use of any controlled drug. Where it is suspected that dangerous substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

Parents

Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity. The school and the parents can then work together to support the pupil involved.

If a pupil admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, investigating staff should inform the Headteacher, and parents will be informed.

Parents will be informed if the school is reasonably certain that their child is involved in substance abuse out of school and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) might be informed.

Confidentiality

Teachers cannot offer confidentiality to a pupil who wants to disclose his illegal use of drugs. However, the school will act with sensitivity towards any member of the school community with a drug-related problem who wishes to seek help to overcome it. The pastoral staff and school counsellor are available for confidential discussion.

PUPIL GUIDELINES

Alcohol, vapes, tobacco, drugs and other items

While under the jurisdiction of the school or while travelling to and from school, you must not be under the influence of or have in your possession:

- Vapes or vaping equipment
- any tobacco or tobacco product, matches or lighters or e-cigarettes
- any alcoholic drinks or solvents
- any legal drugs including so called legal highs (unless prescribed and notified to the school)
- any illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack, cocaine and LSD
- any other harmful substance

In all cases involving substance misuse, your parents will be informed. The Headteacher will consider each case of substance misuse separately and respond in a manner which balances your interests and those of the school community.

You should be aware that you will be liable to permanent exclusion from the school for any serious breach of this rule, such as supplying drugs, legal or illegal, on the school premises. Pupils caught in possession of drugs for their own use will be suspended and are likely to be permanently excluded.

If you or people you know become involved in drug activity, you should tell someone you trust. This might be a friend, a family member, or a member of staff.

What to do if you suspect someone of possessing drugs or supplying drugs to pupils?

Tell someone you trust. This might be a friend, a family member, or a member of staff.

What will happen if you tell a member of staff?

The teacher will listen to you.

They will write notes of what you are saying and will ask you if the notes are a correct account of what you said.

What you report will be investigated.

What to do if you are using drugs outside school and want advice and help.

Tell someone you trust. This might be a friend, a family member, a member of staff. Be assured that staff will always act in your best interests.

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/addiction-support/drug-addiction-getting-help/>