



Drugs Policy

Next review: Mar 2021

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1. Rationale

It is the aim of The Quay School to help all students to be able to take their place safely in the world – a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

2. Acronyms and Education Terms

DSL Designated Safeguarding Lead

PDL Personal Development Learning

YADAS Youth Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service

3. Aims:

- To maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To provide clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues, ensuring clarity and consistency.
- To develop a whole-school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

4. Key Roles and Responsibilities

Whilst senior staff (all DSL trained) are responsible for drug-related issues within school, Russell Arnold, Headteacher, takes the lead on drug-related issues.

5. Definition of “Drugs”

For the purposes of this policy a drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

6. Drug Education

a. Context

We will provide all students with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme.

b. Ethos

Drug education in our school aims to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow are based on national and

local guidelines for good practice, and are appropriate for the age and experience of our students.

c. Content and delivery

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values.

d. Use of visitors and outside speakers

We use visitors from organisations such as YADAS to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance.

7. Preventing Drug-Related Incidents

a. Medicines

The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines which must be followed for everyone's safety. Our practice is in line with national guidance.

b. Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol onto school premises. For the safety of the whole school, parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises.

c. Tobacco

The school is a no smoking site: Indoors and outdoors, in school vehicles, and at all times. Students are not permitted to bring smoking materials to school, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety they will be confiscated if found in the possession of students on school premises.

d. Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.

e. Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought onto, or used on, school premises. This includes *new psychoactive substances*, which were legal substances that are designed to replicate the effects of illegal substances. Although still often referred to as "legal highs", all psychoactive substances are now under either under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, or subject to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Search and confiscation powers may be used if a student is suspected of being in possession of contraband items. Any student refusing to be searched, and to give up items for confiscation, will be refused admission to school. This will not constitute exclusion, but an unauthorised absence.

8. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

A drug-related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug.
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours of drug possession, supply or use.
- Reports of drug possession, supply or use.

a. Guiding principles

- A senior member of staff will be responsible for coordinating the management of each drug related incident, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession will always result in exclusion, which may be permanent.
- The school will respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting the most appropriate from a range of possible responses.

b. Procedures

- **Medical emergencies.** If an individual is unconscious, having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance, or is otherwise at immediate risk of harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the student's safety.
- **Individuals in possession of drugs.** If anyone is found in possession of an unauthorised drug on school premises it will be confiscated. If it is suspected that the drug is illegal the police will be contacted immediately. If the substance cannot be handed to the police, legally destroyed or disposed of immediately, it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than necessary. Discussion of any incident will be confined to establishing facts, rather than conducting an investigation. Parents of students will be informed. Professionals from the LA, Young Persons Substance Misuse Service, Youth Service, Police, School Health Service, Social Service etc may be informed or consulted as appropriate.
- **Support for students.** Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be prioritised. Support is available

through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if a student shows signs indicating risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.

9. Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Case notes will be stored securely in the student's Child Protection file.

10. Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no serious harm. Staff have a commitment to inform the student in advance of any disclosure of information to others and, if possible, enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

11. Staff training and support

Appropriate staff training will be provided, to support staff work in delivering the school programme of drug education, and to help them deal with incidents should they arise. The school PDL coordinator, or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the needs of staff as required.

Appendix Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640. Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Catch 22 - County-wide service offering specialist substance misuse treatment for young people. Website: <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/services/hampshire-247-substance-misuse-support/>

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>