

The British School

Working together for our children's future



Drugs Education and Drug-Related Incidents Policy

Approved by:	Abel Roche	Date: April 2026
Last reviewed on:	April 2025	
Next review due by:	April 2027	

1. Policy Statement

The British School has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils in its care. In accordance with **Keeping Children Safe in Education**, the school recognises that effective drugs education and clear procedures for managing drug-related incidents contribute to pupil safety, welfare and resilience.

The school takes a **zero-tolerance approach** to illegal and unauthorised drugs. The primary concern in all drugs-related matters is the safety and wellbeing of pupils and the wider school community.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy, supported by the CPSHE Coordinator and the Governing Body.

2. Scope of the Policy

Illegal and unauthorised drugs are prohibited:

- On school premises
- Within school boundaries
- During school activities off-site where pupils are under staff supervision

This policy applies to **all pupils, staff, governors, volunteers, visitors, parents and contractors.**

3. Statutory and Guidance Framework

This policy has regard to the following statutory guidance and legislation:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE)
- *Drugs: Advice for Schools* (DfE, 2012)
- *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education* (DfE)
- *Misuse of Drugs Act 1971*
- *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*

4. Definitions

A *drug* is defined as "a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave" (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

For the purposes of this policy, *drugs* include:

- Illegal drugs.
- Legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances.
- Prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

Drug-related incidents may include:

- Age-inappropriate discussion, play or behaviour related to drugs.
- A pupil, staff member or adult on site suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Information concerning the sale or supply of drugs locally.
- Discovery of drugs or drug paraphernalia on school premises.

5. Drugs Education

In line with **statutory PSHE requirements**, drugs education forms part of the school's planned *CPSHE* and science curriculum and is age-appropriate, accurate and inclusive.

The programme aims to:

- Provide factual information about drugs and their effects.
- Promote healthy lifestyles.
- Develop pupils' confidence, resilience and decision-making skills.
- Enable pupils to recognise and manage risk.

Teaching is delivered in accordance with the **SCARF framework**, is sensitive to pupils' experiences and reinforces protective factors identified in statutory guidance.

6. Objectives

The school's approach to drugs education seeks to:

- Equip pupils with skills to resist peer pressure.
- Enable pupils to make informed and responsible choices.
- Clarify misconceptions and challenge false beliefs.
- Support emotional wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Ensure staff are confident in responding to drugs-related issues.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Has overall responsibility for drugs education and drug-related incidents.
- Ensures appropriate liaison with external agencies, including the police and safeguarding partners.

Governing Body

- Monitors policy implementation and compliance with statutory duties.

Parents and Carers

- Are recognised as the primary educators.
- Are informed of the school's approach and invited to engage with materials and guidance.

8. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

In accordance with **DfE guidance**, the school will respond to incidents calmly, proportionately and consistently, with pupil welfare at the centre of all decisions.

- All incidents are recorded and stored securely.
- Pupils are spoken to individually, with a second adult present.
- Police involvement is sought where required.
- No individual may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on site unless prescribed medication does not impair capacity.

9. Procedures

Discovery of Drugs or Paraphernalia

- Secure substances immediately.
- Inform the Headteacher.
- Notify the police where substances are illegal or unidentified.

Pupil Under the Influence

- Seek medical assistance if necessary.
- Ensure close supervision.
- Inform parents and relevant agencies.

Disclosure

- Listen without judgement.
- Maintain confidentiality unless safeguarding concerns require information sharing.
- Follow safeguarding procedures in line with KCSIE.

Adults Under the Influence

- Prioritise pupil safety.
- Arrange safe alternative collection if required.
- Follow safeguarding and disciplinary procedures.

10. Management of Medicines

- Medicines are managed in accordance with the school's **Medicines Policy**.
- Prescribed medicines are administered or self-managed by pupils where agreed.

- Accurate records are maintained.
- Staff do not routinely administer non-prescription medicines.

11. Smoking and Alcohol

Smoking

The school operates a **smoke-free site** at all times.

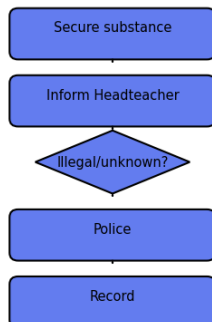
Alcohol

Alcohol is not permitted on school premises, except where formally authorised for specific events and managed in accordance with licensing legislation.

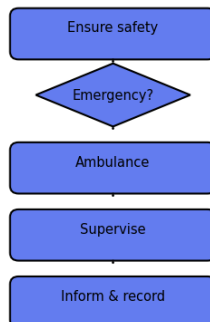
APPENDIX:

Drugs-Related Incidents – Quick Decision Flowcharts

Illegal Drugs Found



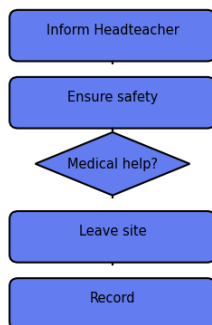
Pupil Under Influence



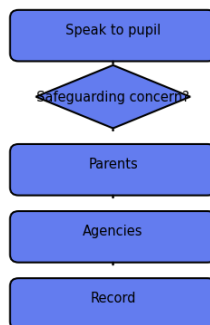
Parent/Carer Under Influence



Staff/Governor Under Influence



Inappropriate Drug Knowledge



Local Drug Sales Info



