



DRUG EDUCATION AND INCIDENTS POLICY

Status	Statutory	Date created	April 2012
Any other statutory names for this policy (where applicable)		Date first approved	12 June 2012
Responsibility for this policy	Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)	Date last reviewed	Spring 2026
Governors' Committee with responsibility for its review	T&L Committee	Frequency of review	Every two years
Tick here if Bucks Policy attached in its entirety		To be put on the school website? (Yes/No)	Yes
Approval necessary	Whole Governing Body		

1. Introduction

The school has drawn up this policy with regard to [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools](#), September 2012, [2025/26 RSHE Guidance](#) and the DfE guidance on [Searching, Screening and Confiscation 2022](#). Where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, nicotine (in the form of e-cigarettes), illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances (NPS)¹ and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

This document does not solely focus on drug education. It covers broader behaviour and pastoral support, as well as managing drugs and drug-related incidents within schools.

2. Governors' and Headteacher's Statement of Principles

Aylesbury High School regards itself as a health-promoting school and recognises the importance of educating students about the use and misuse of drugs. It also recognises the importance of staff acting as role-models in their behaviour.

It is a smoke-free site for all staff, students, volunteers and visitors. Students are not allowed to smoke/vape during the school day on the school premises, or on the way to and from school, either on school buses or on foot, or at any time when involved in activities connected with the school. This includes students in Year 11 who, as a privilege, are allowed off the school site on a Wednesday lunch time. Year 12 and 13 students should not smoke/vape in the vicinity of the school.

No alcohol is allowed on the school premises during the school day unless it is for an AHSA event or similar or a gift to a member of staff. In these circumstances the alcohol will be under the supervision of the school staff. While on duty, members of staff may not consume alcohol, as set out in our Staff Code of Conduct.

Caretaking and Facilities staff look out for and report any signs of drug misuse on the site, for example, any drug paraphernalia or signs of tobacco or alcohol and report this to a member of the Leadership Team.

¹ Many of the substances are now under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 ... [and] some NPS products can also contain illegal substances.

Any misuse or possession of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, by students whilst on the school premises, whilst travelling to and from school or whilst involved in an off-site school activity will be treated very seriously using the full range of the school's sanctions, in accordance with the Behaviour and Exclusions Policy and Behaviour Matrix, which can be found in the [Governance & Policies Folder](#) on our website. The school makes use of both internal and external sources of support and guidance for any students who are dealt with as a result of this policy.

3. Hirers

Alcohol may only be sold in accordance with the provisions of the appropriate license. When a license is granted it is on the understanding that alcohol will not be sold to a minor. Permission for alcohol to be brought on site can only be granted to adult groups when the school receives sufficient advance notice to check that all other user groups do not object.

Total adherence to the school's non-smoking policy is a condition of hiring any part of the school's premises at all times.

4. Role of Drugs Education

The school aims to provide students with enough information to make informed choices about drugs, both legal and illegal, where drugs are defined as substances which, when absorbed into the body, alter normal functioning. It also aims to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

What is Drugs Education?

Drugs Education involves providing students with accurate information about substances (both legal and illegal), including the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse. It widens the understanding about related health and social issues.

Why teach Drugs Education?

Drugs Education at Aylesbury High School is taught with an emphasis on personal responsibility, respect for self and others, the understanding and encouragement of assertiveness and the promotion of positive self-esteem.

Inclusion

Aylesbury High School is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students. Drugs education and PSHE (through Learning for Life, L4L) is an entitlement for all students regardless of their own particular beliefs, gender, social class or ability and the curriculum and learning approaches are planned with this in mind.

Aims of the Drugs Education Programme

- To enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills of self-assertiveness
- To provide accurate and up to date information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

Place in the curriculum

Delivery of the Drug Education Programme is delegated to L4L staff, working in

conjunction with the pastoral team. In addition, certain biological aspects are delivered through Science lessons. Other subjects, such as English and Modern Foreign Languages, also cover elements of the Drug Education Programme through individual projects.

Content, methodology and resources

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through L4L to reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills, this will:

- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

Teaching is conducted in a safe learning environment through the use of ground rules and distancing techniques so that students are not put on the spot or expected to discuss their own personal issues in class. This teaching continues into the Sixth Form.

Dealing with questions

- Teachers should establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate to discuss in a whole-class setting. If a verbal question is too personal the teacher should remind the students of the parameters set.
- Teachers should set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that students discuss issues in a way which does not encourage giggling and silliness. Explicit or difficult questions do not have to be answered immediately but it should be made clear that they may be addressed at another time or on a one to one basis.

Monitoring, evaluation and assessment

The programme is regularly evaluated by the pastoral team and the L4L coordinator. The views of students and teachers who deliver the lessons are used to make changes and improvements on an ongoing basis.

5. Pastoral support for students

The school takes its role in the promotion of student well-being seriously. Staff will offer help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice. Where appropriate, students are referred to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead or DSL and/or outside agencies. The school will keep up to date about the development of local services and national helplines for YP and form working relationships with local agencies that are relevant to student needs. All staff are made aware of the school's confidentiality policy.

6. Incidents

6.1 Cigarettes / Tobacco / Vaping

A student who is thought to be in possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes (vapes) or other tobacco products must be reported immediately to the Head of Year or a member of the Leadership Team.

Action: The Head of Year, supported by an additional member of staff, will ask the student to produce the items or to turn out the contents of their bag. The student's locker may also be searched. Note that the Education Act 2011 gives school staff the power to search without consent if there are reasonable grounds to suspect prohibited items.

Confiscation: Any items will be confiscated and made available for a parent/carer to collect.

Sanctions: First Offence: The student will receive an internal isolation.

Subsequent Offences: Sanctions will escalate in severity, which may include fixed-term suspension.

School Trips: If a student is found smoking or vaping on a school trip, the above sanctions apply, and they may be barred from future trips.

Note: If a vape is suspected to contain illegal substances (e.g., THC or synthetic cannabinoids), the procedure for "Illegal Substances" (Section 6.4) will be followed.

6.2 Solvents (Volatile Substances)

A student thought to be misusing solvents (e.g., glue, aerosols, gas canisters) must be reported immediately to the Head of Year or the Leadership Team.

Action: The Head of Year, supported by an additional member of staff, will ask for the solvents or conduct a search of the student's bag/locker.

Sanctions: Parents/Carers will be informed and a sanction applied based on the severity of the situation. For subsequent offences, privileges may be withdrawn and the student will be required to engage with pastoral support.

School Trips: Misuse on a school trip will result in the above sanctions and a likely ban from future trips.

7.3 Alcohol / New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

A student thought to be in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol or NPS must be reported immediately to the Head of Year or a member of the Leadership Team.

Under the Influence:

Priority: Ensure the student is moved away from others to a safe space (the medical room if possible).

Supervision: The student must be supervised by two members of staff at all times. Where possible, one of these should be a trained first aider or the school nurse, given the medical risk.

Medical: If the student is unresponsive or in distress, emergency services will be contacted immediately.

Contact: Parents/Carers will be required to collect the student from the school site immediately.

Possession & Sanctions:

Search: The student's bag and locker will be checked; any alcohol/NPS will be confiscated.

Sanction: The standard sanction for possession or being under the influence of alcohol/NPS is a fixed-term suspension.

Reintegration: On return to school, a reintegration meeting with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and parents is mandatory. Support/counselling will be offered.

7.4 Illegal Substances

Any incident involving suspected illegal substances (including Class C drugs such as Nitrous Oxide) must be reported immediately to the Headteacher or, in their absence, the Deputy Headteacher.

Under the Influence:

The priority is the student's safety and immediate removal from the student body.

The student will be supervised by two members of staff in a safe location until Parents/Carers arrive to take them home. Where possible, one of these should be a trained first aider or the school nurse, given the medical risk.

Medical/Emergency services will be contacted if appropriate.

Possession on Premises:

Search: A search of school property (locker/desk) will be conducted. The student will be asked to display their belongings. If they refuse, the school may exercise its statutory power to search without consent or seek immediate police assistance.

Police Involvement: Any suspected illegal substances will be confiscated, sealed, and the police informed immediately for collection and disposal.

Sanctions for Illegal Substances:

Suspension/Exclusion: The standard sanction for possession or being under the influence is a fixed-term suspension. However, the Headteacher reserves the right to move to Permanent Exclusion depending on the circumstances and the student's previous record.

Support: Following a suspension, a reintegration meeting will occur and drug counselling will be offered as a condition of return.

7.5 Supply and "Dealing"

The supply of illegal substances (including sharing or selling) is a grave breach of school discipline and is likely to result in the severest sanctions.

Investigation: The student(s) will be placed in isolation while an investigation is carried out. Written statements will be taken from all involved parties and witnesses.

Evidence: Bags, lockers, and school property will be searched. If the student refuses to cooperate, police advice will be sought immediately.

Police: The police will be informed of all incidents where supply or dealing is suspected, regardless of whether a substance is found.

Outcome: Dealing or supplying illegal substances, whether on the school site or on the way to/from school, will typically lead to Permanent Exclusion.

7. How the policy will be monitored and evaluated

The policy will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher. Monitoring and evaluation will take the form of annual interviews with random samples of students as part of the Pastoral Reviews and inclusion of pertinent questions on surveys as part of self-evaluation.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

- the School's Drug Education and Incident Policy is maintained and updated regularly
- procedures and strategies related to the policy are implemented

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- ensuring that all members of the school community are aware of and comply with the Drug Education and Incident Policy
- ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given relevant training and support
- using fixed term suspensions and permanent exclusions as a sanction in line with the Behaviour and Exclusions Policy

The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for:

- overseeing the implementation of the Drug Education and Incident Policy

All staff are expected to:

- understand and comply with the School's Drug Education and Incident Policy
- deal with incidents that may occur
- make explicit, in a constructive and positive way, what behaviour is expected of students and what is unacceptable
- challenge inappropriate/unacceptable behaviour
- provide students with a good role model (in accordance with the staff code of conduct)

Students/parents/carers, visitors and contractors are expected to:

- be aware of and comply with the school's Drug Education and Incident Policy and the document Carrying medicines at AHS

9. Useful organisations

www.addaction.org.uk (With You)

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.

www.adfam.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

www.alcoholconcern.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

www.ash.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health). A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

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.

www.drinkaware.co.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: 0300 123 1110

drugwise.org.uk

Drugwise 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.

www.talktofrank.com

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.