



Serenity School

Drugs and Vaping Policy

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Introduction

This policy outlines Serenity School's commitment to maintaining a safe and drug-free educational environment. It specifically addresses issues related to the possession and use of drugs and vaping devices within the school premises and during school activities.

This policy is aligned with our Screen and Search Policy as well as the statutory guidance provided by the Department for Education (DFE).

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing and maintaining this policy, as well as being responsible for all of the operational matters associated with this Policy.

The Headteacher ensures that all of the teaching staff understand the policy and their responsibilities within it and that the policy is consistently implemented in all departments, including identifying training needs.

All Teaching Staff must understand their responsibilities defined in the policy and seek to carry out the requirements, seeking support from the Headteacher where needed.

Policy Objectives

- To ensure a safe educational environment free from drug use and vaping.
- To provide clear procedures for handling incidents involving drugs and vaping devices.
- To support the health and well-being of all pupils, and discourage pupils from smoking and vaping for the following reasons:
 - It is injurious to health.
 - It is addictive.
 - It promotes, in a School context, secretive and unsafe behaviours.
 - It presents health and safety risks; and
 - There is evidence to suggest that those who smoke are more likely to try other addictive chemicals such as drugs.
- To educate pupils about the dangers and consequences of smoking and vaping. This is supported in the PSHE Education programme run in the School.
- To develop a partnership with parents in order to dissuade pupils from smoking and vaping.

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, and visitors to [School Name]. It covers the possession, use, and distribution of drugs (including controlled drugs and psychoactive substances) and vaping devices.

Definitions

- "Drugs" refer to any controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, prescription medications not prescribed to the individual, and psychoactive substances.
- "Vaping devices" include e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and any electronic device capable of delivering nicotine or other substances via a vapor solution.

Rules and Expectations

- The possession, use, sale, or distribution of any drugs or vaping devices is strictly prohibited on school premises and during any school-related activities.
- Prescription medications must be declared and managed according to the school's medication policy.

Safeguarding Procedures

- Any incident involving drugs or vaping will trigger the school's safeguarding protocol, assessing the student's welfare and potential risk of harm.
- The school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will be involved in all cases to ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect the student and others involved.
- Cooperation with external agencies (social services, mental health services) will be sought when necessary to provide additional support.

Searching, Screening, and Confiscation

- School staff have the authority to search pupils without consent, in the presence of a witness, for suspected possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or vaping devices. This is in accordance with our Screen and Search Policy and the DFE's "Searching, Screening and Confiscation" guidance. [Searching, Screening and Confiscation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Searches will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual needs of pupils, particularly those with SEND.

- Confiscated items will be handled according to legal requirements and school procedures, which may involve destroying and disposing of the items or handing them over to the police if illegal substances or activities are suspected.

Consequences

- The school will respond to rule violations in line with the Behaviour for Learning Policy and according to the severity and nature of the incident. Responses may include intervention by the School's MDT, mandatory educational programs on drug abuse, suspension, or, in severe cases, termination of placement.
- The school will work in collaboration with local authorities and external agencies to provide support and rehabilitation services.

Support and Education

- Serenity School will provide educational programs to all pupils about the dangers of drug use and vaping.
- The school will offer support and referral to counselling services for pupils struggling with substance abuse issues.

Parental and Community Involvement

- Parents and guardians will be informed of this policy and their expected role in supporting the school's efforts to maintain a drug-free environment.
- The school seeks to work closely with community resources to enhance prevention and intervention strategies.

Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with current laws and DFE guidelines.
- Feedback from staff, pupils, and parents will be solicited and considered during reviews.

Policy Distribution

- This policy will be distributed to all staff, pupils, and parents and will be available on the school website.