



EXETER ROAD Drugs Policy

**Adopted by the Governors of Teignmouth Community School
on 5 May 2022**

1 Scope

Teignmouth Community School, Exeter Road is an 11–19 school and is part of Osprey Learning Trust, comprising of Teignmouth Community School (TCS) and TCS Sixth Form (TCS6). This policy is under continuous review by Senior Leadership Team and the Local Governing Body because of the changing drug scene both nationally and locally.

2 Requirements

Ethos and Rationale

The philosophy of the school is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment to ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and thrive in a safe and stimulating environment. Students are expected to show high levels of engagement, courtesy and cooperation in and out of lessons in order to ensure that a positive and healthy ethos is created throughout the whole school using age and stage appropriate systems. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs require appropriate and reasonable care management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and over the counter and prescribed medicines, as well as psychoactive substances, illegal drugs and other unauthorised substances.

3 Our Aims

- To reinforce and safeguard the health, safety and well-being of all pupils and the whole school community
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum at school

- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed in a consistent way that serves the best interests of those involved.

Drugs on School Premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

Medicines

The school has a policy and procedure in place for the administration of prescribed medication that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow guidance specified by Department for Education and Employment and Department for Health.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of the school day. Pupils and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents/carers will be asked to collect their children.

Smoking/ Vaping

The school is a no smoking/ vaping site at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to the school smoking or vaping paraphernalia, including matches and lighters. For health and safety reasons any items found on school premises will be confiscated and parents/carers will be contacted.

Illegal Drugs

The school operate a zero-tolerance system in relation to illegal substances. No drugs are allowed to be brought on to, used, sold or supplied on school premises. To assist the school in delivering this zero-tolerance approach to illegal drugs, we liaise closely with Devon and Cornwall Police on matters of education and, when necessary, the Headteacher may request the use of Passive Drugs Dogs on school site to support our zero-tolerance stance on illegal drugs.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come in to contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvents or 'sniffable' products.

Responses to drug related incidents:

A drug incident may be:

- finding of drugs or related paraphernalia on school premises;
- possession of drugs by an individual or group of pupils on school premises;
- an individual being under the influence of drugs on school premises;
- the supply of drugs on school premises;
- individuals disclosing information about their drug use;
- rumours, or reports that visitors, staff or pupils are using drugs.

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises the school will prioritise the safety of the pupil and those around them. If necessary, it will be dealt with as a medical emergency and First Aid will be administered with appropriate support summoned. If the pupil is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will come in to effect and social services may be contacted.

The school are aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents and seeks to work in line with local and national guidance as outlined in the DfE and ACPO Drugs Advice for Schools document (2012). The Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral & Behaviour Lead, will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with relevant outside agencies. All incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. Incidents whereby a controlled Class A or Class B drug is used, or if a substantial amount of illegal substances is found, the matter is reported to the police as a matter of urgency. Incidents whereby a controlled Class C drug is used, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with key staff making the professional judgement on whether to report to the police, as per guidance from National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) "When to call police guidance for schools and colleges". If any student is found to have been supplying any class of drug, the police will also be informed. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours. If the police are involved in any incident parents /carers will be informed and will be given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

The school reserves the right to search students' bags if they have reason to believe they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out by the members of the Senior Leadership Team, Behaviour Support Team, Heads of Year or members of the Safeguarding & Welfare team. In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs the school will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior staff members;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interest of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

Evidence of drug use or possession will not necessarily result in permanent exclusion. The schools' response to drug-related incidents will balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned, with the wider school community. Permanent exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with the DfE Guidance on Exclusions (2017). Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions may vary according to the severity of the incident and the pupil's involvement. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

Appropriate support will be offered to those students who have substance related difficulties.

Confidentiality

We would always wish to encourage an ethos of openness that leads to students feeling that they can seek the support of adults in dealing with issues in their lives; this includes issues surrounding drugs and drug use. However, we can never make promises of 'secrecy' and safeguarding students will sometimes mean that we have to share information that they disclose to us with other adults and/or agencies. With regard to personal drug use outside of school time and premises we would seek, as far as is reasonable, to employ a pastoral and supportive approach to facilitate the student in making sensible and healthy choices in the future. Prior

knowledge of personal drug use outside of school time and premises will not reduce our right to sanction drug offences according to our behaviour policy.

Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Support

At TCS welfare is paramount. We maintain that whenever possible constructive strategies to enable pupils to continue to benefit from education are preferable to exclusion. Support is available by the following staff at school:

- Safeguarding & Welfare Team
- Behaviour Support Team
- Heads of Year
- Tutors
- Student Services Team
- Young Carer Leader
- SENCO / Centre for Appropriate Learning

Drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE which is embedded within our school curriculum across all year groups in Years 7-13. It is delivered in a supported environment where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel comfortable asking for help if necessary. The school makes every effort to identify needs and aim to distinguish between pupils who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require detailed needs assessment and more intensive support. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or somebody else's, including family members. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies and possible referrals to specialist support. The school has up-to-date sources of help on the website and local and national helplines are visible on toilet cubicle doors. Drug Education is also delivered via school assemblies at various points across the school year.

School Governors are regularly updated on all aspects of student welfare and behaviour; any incidents involving use of illegal substances are reported to the Local Governing Body by the Headteacher.

The name of our School Liaison Officer is Matthew Jacques who can be contacted on the following email address: Matthew.Jacques@devonandcornwallpolice.pnn.police.uk.

PC Rachel Croft (Youth Intervention officer) can also be contacted at: Rachel.CROFTS1@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk.

Amendment Record

VERSION	DATE	AMENDED BY	NATURE OF CHANGE	DATE OF NEXT REVIEW
1	05/09/2016	K Ray	Implementation of Policy	
2	19/10/2016	K Ray	Add the use of Passive Drugs Dogs and close liaison with D&C Police. Enter P.C Rachel Croft's details.	
3	29/04/2022	M Lewis S Minty-Dyke	Reviewed and updated as recommended in line with current guidance. Reference to "whole school" inclusion of TCS Mill Lane removed.	As required, and no later than May 2026.