

School Policy	
School	St Martins school
Name	Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking policy
Statutory Policy	No
Members of Staff Responsible	Headteacher/ SLT.
Date of Review of current document , term / year	Summer 2021
Review Cycle	2 Years
Website	Yes
Approval body.	Local Governing Body
Legislation	DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, [September 2012].
Trust policy	No
Policy for staff / students / parents / community	Students
Other policy to be taken account of	Safeguarding, Behaviour, medical conditions

The School is committed to the health and safety of all its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

The term drugs in this policy is 'a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave and refers to alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, prescribed drugs, legal highs and volatile substances'. The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs in the school context, which is defined as on any School premises or during any School activity, is not permitted. Any such instance will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter and the likely outcome could be permanent exclusion from the School.

In its responses to drugs misuse and in the education it provides on drugs, the School follows the guidance given in *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, [September 2012]*. This document should be read in conjunction with the School policies on child protection, behaviour, offsite visit, and School expectations.

The Head of School or Deputy head will inform parents at the earliest appropriate opportunity in situations involving the possession, use or supply of illegal substances in the school context. (There is no legal requirement to do this before searching).

1. Alcohol

The School recognises its duty to discourage and deter unhealthy and immoderate patterns of drinking, whilst helping to educate our students in the balanced, limited, social use of alcohol if and when appropriate.

In the School context, no pupil may drink or bring alcohol onto School premises, or take it on School outings, trips, expeditions, fixtures, etc. In addition, no pupil may visit licensed premises during the School day.

2. Smoking

Under no circumstances may any pupil smoke or otherwise be in possession of tobacco or products relating to e-cigarettes on the way to and from School, at any point during the School day, at any event representing School or during any visit or trip organised by the School. The whole site is non-smoking.

The supply of smoking related substances in School is a serious matter any breach of the rules will follow the School Behaviour procedure, a summary of which is outlined under point 6 below.

3. Over the counter and prescribed-medication

Staff are not able to provide paracetamol and Ibuprofen to pupils. However, parents can be contacted and asked to bring some in if required. Please see Medical needs policy.

4. Drugs

(a) Drugs Education

For pupils the School supports the following educational aims:

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge of such substances, and by developing and practising skills for avoiding the use of them through effective PHSE teaching and other teaching within the curriculum; this may involve the use of outside speakers.
- To provide accurate information about drugs in an age-appropriate manner through teaching above, including the moral and social implications of drug use.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support, but noting that if a pupil seeks support from a member of staff concerning drug misuse, confidentiality can only be maintained where the alleged use occurs outside the School context.

For staff:

The Head of School ensures that all staff members are made aware of this policy.

For parents or carers:

In addition parents or carers and outside agencies are also kept informed. The policy is also posted on the School website and hard copies can be obtained by parents or carers if requested. Practical advice is also available in individual cases for parents or carers from the Pastoral Team should they discover that a pupil is abusing drugs or other substances.

(b) Drug-related incidents in the School context and searches.

We will always investigate rumours about involvement in illegal drugs and substances. The Deputy Head directs any investigations arising from this policy. Each incident will be considered individually and the implications of the action to be taken weighed very carefully, but fixed term or permanent exclusion must be seen as a likely outcome and the School's Behaviour Policy will be followed.

Investigations may involve interviewing a number of other pupils, viewing CCTV footage, the searching of bags or external clothing with consent from either the parents or from the pupil if they are mature enough and fully understands the procedure. (It may be necessary under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to search without consent under the direction of the Head of School, when there are reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil has a prohibited item in their possession). The member of staff in leading the investigation will determine the need to contact parents for consent or not. If the pupil refuses the consent, they will be asked to explain why, and the school will make a decision based on the information they have and actions on conclusion of the investigation. The School may then contact the police if they feel this is needed. If the parent refuses consent then the School will make any decision based on the information they have and again the police may be informed. When a search is carried out it will be done so in such a manner so that minimal embarrassment or distress is caused. If a pupil is searched, the searcher and the second member of staff will be of the same gender as the pupil.

Any drugs that are found as a result of investigations will be immediately confiscated and held securely by a member of the Senior Management Team in a sealed bag or container (in the presence of a second witness), clearly labelled with date, time, witnesses and pupil's names. If it is clear that

the pupil involved has broken the law then the police will be informed at this stage by the Deputy Head, Parents will be informed at this stage if they have not already been informed.

(c) Students seeking support

The School expectations make it perfectly clear that the possession and supply of non-prescribed drugs on the School site is a very serious matter which may lead to the permanent exclusion of the pupil(s) involved.

However, the School's primary concern is to the pupil and their welfare and to the welfare of the School community as a whole. Any student who is genuinely seeking help on a drugs related matter will be supported in a non-disciplinary manner. The pupil will be given support and guidance and the information disclosed will be dealt with in the appropriate manner, taking into account any safeguarding implications that may arise. It may be the case that information needs to be shared with other professionals so that appropriate help can be gained for the pupil concerned. The pupils can approach any member of staff for support in this area. In cases where students refer themselves, at the discretion of the Head of School, we may offer our students the opportunity to reform his or her habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling.

If a pupil is found to be under the influence of drugs on the School site then our immediate priority is the safety and medical treatment for that pupil. Once again the school Child Protection Policy may come into effect.

(d) Drugs Helplines

Drinkaware: An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimize alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450

<http://www.drinkaware.co.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

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

24 hour confidential telephone advice about drugs is offered by the National Drugs Helpline, also called *Talk to*

Frank 0300 1236600 <http://www.talktofrank.com/>

Release 020 7324 2989 <http://www.release.org.uk/services/helpline> offers more restricted hours or ask@release.org.uk

5. School trips and visits

School expectations apply on trips and visits. The above policy and procedures apply whether the pupil is on site or on a trip or visit. Clearly the nature of the offsite trip will determine the extent to which the procedure can be carried out on the trip itself.

6. Discipline

As a School we recognise that a number of different incidents could occur that will require different consequences. Appropriate counselling will be available to any pupil for whom this is deemed necessary or for a pupil perceived to be at risk. The final disciplinary decisions will be made by the Head of School.

7. Reports of incidents outside School

Incidents outside the School context will not necessarily be regarded as a disciplinary matter, and wherever possible the School will hope to counsel and advise.

8. Parents and carers under the influence of drugs

If a parent or carer is found to be under the influence of drugs on the School site such that a member of staff feels they are a risk to the pupils they must be asked to leave.