





Chester International School

Substance Misuse Policy

Policy name:	Substance Misuse Policy
Version:	Final
Author/s:	Francesca McCormick
Date:	15/10/2021
Date approved by Governing body:	08/12/2021
Review period:	Every 3 years

Name	Signature	Date
Katrina Brown <i>Principal</i>		08/12/2021
Stephen Miller <i>Chair of Governors</i>		08/12/2021

Substance Misuse Policy

As an International Baccalaureate school, Chester International school aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Chester International School:

- A. Is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- B. Acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.
- C. Acknowledges the need to be aware and sensitive to the fact that some children may be living with parents/carers with a history of a drug abuse.
- D. Believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people regarding the consequences of drug use.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Chester International School:

- A. Will view as wholly unacceptable the possession, use or handling of drugs including alcohol by members of the school community or the illegal supply of these substances.
- B. Will impose sanctions on anyone who contravenes this. This may include permanent exclusion for the first offence.

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided through PSHE, Social Wellbeing and science lessons as well as tutorials. We recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

Table 1 – Warning Signs in Individuals

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities.
- Decline in performance in school work.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked mood swings, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in an older age group.
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money.
- Stealing money or property.
- Excessive tiredness without cause.
- No interest in physical appearance.
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose.
- Lack of appetite.
- Heavy use of scents, colognes etc. to disguise the smell of drugs.
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils).

Table 2 – Warning Signs in Groups

- Regular absence on certain days.
- Keeping at a distance from other students, away from supervision points (eg. Groups who frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field).
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking.
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises.
- Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person (eg. Perhaps to shop-lift solvents).
- Use of drug-takers' slang.
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances.
- Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries 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/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

- Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers 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 will be asked to remove their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

- Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on or within sight of the school premises will result in a Fixed Term Exclusion. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

- Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

- Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work.

Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals being on school premises under the influence of drugs
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain at Chester International School would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school

A member of the SLT will (normally) be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Principal. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Aquarius, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Chester International School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Child Protection and Confidentiality policies for more information on this). Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Coach, Academic Mentor, Dean of Students)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. Aquarius
- Working with the Police

Right to Search

In line with recent legislation the staff at Chester International School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.

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 Year Leaders or members of the Senior Leadership Team or the same gender and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

If inappropriate articles are brought into school or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection by Parents and Carers at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal they will be handed to the Police for safe disposal.

Chester International School works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, Restorative Justice Conferencing, unless there are reasons why this should not be the case (for instance, serious safeguarding concerns) (an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of the victims and the offenders, as well as the involved community, instead of satisfying abstract legal principles or punishing the offender), group work and education as well as links with home.

Parents and Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews. Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Useful Organisations

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

Tel: 020 3817 9410 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change uk 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

Tel: 020 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

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

Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: <http://ash.org.uk>

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.

Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only) Email: info@coramclc.org.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.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: 020 7766 9900 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

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. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

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.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com; Website:

www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 963 2751. Email admin@mentoruk.org

Website: <https://mentoruk.org.uk/>

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)

A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044;

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>