Northampton School
for Boys

Drugs and Solvents Policy

Approved by:	**Governor Welfare Committee**
Date:	**14 September 2016**
Review Date:	**September 2017**

DRUGS AND SOLVENTS POLICY

The policy seeks to take a broad approach in addressing the needs of young people, the institution, the curriculum, staff, parents and the community. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy, the Safeguarding policy, the Medicines policy and the Searching Pupils policy.

The policy is established in line with the "DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools September 2012" and the government's Drug Strategy 2010 which ensures schools have advice and powers to: provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol; to tackle problem behaviour in schools with wider powers of search and confiscation; and working with organisations including the health service and police to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

It also follows schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty where reasonable to do so. The policy also recognises that the general power to confiscate includes "where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or "legal highs". If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug".

- All students will attend lessons in which factual information about drugs and solvents is given.
- Normally these lessons will form part of the Citizenship and Guidance programmes.
- All incidents of misuse or suspected misuse of solvents or drugs will be reported as a serious incident and such incidents will be monitored.
- NPS (new psychoactive substances) or "legal highs" are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. Such substances are banned under this policy. The school's Behaviour Policy will be applied to students in possession of such substances.
- If a student is believed to be under the influence of an unknown or known illegal substance, parents will be informed and medical assistance sought. The young person will not be left alone. If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Safeguarding Policy will take effect and social services may need to be contacted.

- If a student is believed to be in possession of drugs, then a search may take place. In accordance with government advice and guidance schools are not required to inform parents before a search can take place or seek their consent to search. There is no legal requirement to make or keep records of a search. However, parents will normally be informed where alcohol, illegal drugs or possibly harmful substances are found.
- A report of the incident may be made available to the Education Entitlement Team.
- Substances believed to be illegal found in the possession of a student or on school premises will be passed to the police. Procedures will normally include: having a second adult witness throughout; sealing the substance in a plastic bag with details of date and time and witnesses present; store in a secure location; notifying the police; recording the full details of the incident including the police incident reference number; informing parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil; and identifying any Safeguarding concerns
- Information relating to the supply of illegal substances will be passed to the police.
- Emphasis throughout will be placed upon the confidential nature of all action taken as far as possible.
- Sanctions relating to incidents involving drugs and banned substances are detailed in the school's Behaviour Policy.
- If a pupil has been identified as at risk of drug misuse, then the school may set up targeted intervention for that pupil using services such as Northamptonshire CAN or the health service.
- There will be a member of the Senior Staff who is responsible for the drugs policy and all drugs related issues. This will be the Designated School Lead for Child Protection.
- This member of Senior Staff will be the school's liaison with the police and will agree with the police a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents

SPONSOR: Governors' Welfare Committee

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