



Forest of
Dean Trust

Drugs Policy

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL

Policy name	Drugs Policy
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Owner	KBe
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Approver	Local Governing Board
Review frequency	Bi-Annually
Review date	June 2027

Reference

Disciplinary Policy
Safeguarding Policy
Student Behaviour Policy

Aim

The drug education received at Dene Magna School ensures that all students are made aware of the effects on their wellbeing of both legal and illegal drugs. The legal substances are identified as: tobacco; caffeine (including energy drinks); alcohol; prescribed drugs, over the counter drugs, vaping and vape juice.

The policy takes into account:

- Students traveling to and from school
- School visits
- Actions of students in school
- The effects of substances outside school on their behaviour and attitude to work in school

This policy relates to Dene Magna School

Dene Magna School is a non-smoking school – this applies to all students and staff. All prescribed drugs brought into school are held in a secure place, for example within a drawer in the Main Office. No student will be given a prescribed drug without the consent of their parent/guardian/carer. Parents will be contacted for consent to use mild pain killers if needed. Time given and type of painkiller administered is noted.

Any student considered to have put themselves at risk through prescribed medication or other substances, including alcohol, will be referred immediately to the emergency services and parents/guardians/carers will be notified.

Discipline and Sanctions

- All incidents involving illegal substances will be dealt with individually, taking into account the circumstances and student(s) involved. It should be noted, however, that all students and parents/guardians/carers have been informed that possession, trading or use of illegal substances on school premises is likely to result in permanent exclusion and if this action is taken will result in the student not returning to School. The Headteacher will deal with incidents in collaboration with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Where appropriate, we would take a positive and supportive response with referral to the necessary support agencies, e.g. Youth Support Trust. The school will also use the services of the School Counsellor, School Nurse, YST, GP should the need arise.
- All mentions of involvement with substance misuse will continue to be monitored and stored on my concern. The names will be passed through the Headteacher, who will liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Other staff who need to be involved will be notified.
- Students receive appropriate drug information through RSHE (PINK curriculum) programme, throughout their time at Dene Magna School.
- Outside agencies are used whenever possible as a backup to RSHE. All staff and Governors will have training as necessary.
- There will be regular communication of information for parents/carers, who will be

encouraged to inform the school of their concerns, should they arise.

- Parents/guardians/carers may be invited into school, and governors will be informed, if a student is found to have brought into or obtained illegal substances in school. This information will be deemed confidential and shared on a 'need to know' basis. If there is a safeguarding risk attached to the incident then the school is expected to follow their safeguarding procedures.
- However, the police will be informed and any illegal substance will be handed to them for disposal.
- This Policy is adopted to ensure the safety of the whole school community.
- In situations where staff are under the suspicion that a child may be in possession of an illegal substance or drugs/smoking paraphernalia (rizlas, lighters, vape juice etc.) a member of staff will request that the student is subjected to a bag search. The bag search will be carried out as per most recent guidance around searching and confiscation available on the DfE website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>.
- Where a student refuses to be searched they will be taken to the Headteacher, who will contact their parents/carers and will be contacted and asked to attend school. The next course of action will be decided by the Headteacher.
- If a student consents to the search and illegal items are found they will be confiscated by the member of staff and not returned to the student. These items will be stored by the headteacher and, depending upon the nature of the item found, parents/carers are able to collect the items from school. Any items need to be collected within 24 hours or they will be suitably disposed of.
- If students are supplying others with contraband items, e.g. vapes, they will be subject to the same sanctions as those found with these items on their person

When searching a child, the following conditions must be in place:

- The adults carrying out the search should be the same gender as the person being searched.
- There should be two adults present when a student is being searched and it should be done in a private and dignified way.
- Where a student presents as a gender that is different from their birth gender they will be given the option of being searched by a Male or a Female member of staff.