

Substance Misuse

School policy and guidelines



Substance Abuse Policy

This policy has emerged from discussions between staff, parents and governors in collaboration with specialist Lancashire LA advisory staff.

Our school community is determined to protect the young people in our care from intoxicating, harmful and illegal substances which can damage their health, encourage dependency and addiction, may lead to anti-social behaviour and could have potentially tragic consequences.

We will give our pupils the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to make informed and healthy choices about the full range of substances which people consume.

They need to be aware of the risk to their health which could be caused by types of food and amounts consumed through to the dangers posed by tobacco, alcohol and drugs. We want them to be clear about the consequences and the penalties that they will incur if they break the laws of the land.

The school will teach pupils about these matters within the broader context of health, personal and social development, life skills and preparation for adulthood.

We make use of outside agencies, including the police early action team who contribute to school assemblies, the PSHE programme and work with individual pupils.

Underpinning our approach is our commitment to provide support and advice to young people, and where appropriate, their parents, particularly when they are facing problems and concerns where advice and assistance are asked for and needed.

The school rules and sanctions concerning substance use and misuse are communicated to pupils clearly and at regular intervals.

This is how we deal with substance misuse at school

We take note of Government guidance on handling substance misuse.

Pupils are told during appropriate lessons and on other occasions about the risks and sanctions they face for using and misusing substances. We also take into account parents' views on these matters. We do all we can to respond to individual requests for support from parents and carers, including assisting liaison between them and relevant agencies.

Smoking

A separate leaflet covering our policy on smoking is available on our website www.sarchs.com or in the school foyer.

Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on school premises, during school events or trips, or when pupils are travelling to and from school whether or not they are in school uniform.

These are occasions when the school is 'in loco parentis'. (This is a legal term which refers to the right of a school to act as it sees appropriate in the best interests of its pupils). If children are caught smoking, are in the presence of smokers, or are identified by other pupils as being involved with smoking, they will be disciplined and their parents will be informed.

When pupils are found with cigarettes, lighters and other smoking paraphernalia these will be confiscated and destroyed. Pupils caught smoking are given an after-school detention. Pupils may then be banned from certain areas of our premises, where they have been caught smoking previously. If they are caught on more than one occasion they risk being given a fixed term exclusion.

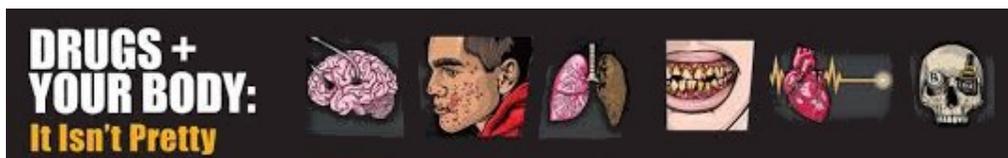
The above advice also relates to electronic cigarettes. These will only be returned to parents /carers.

Alcohol

Any pupil in possession of alcohol on school premises, during school events or trips, or when pupils are travelling to and from school, risks being given a fixed term exclusion.

Solvent misuse

A number of substances can be bought which, while legal, we will not permit pupils to bring into school. These include aerosols, solvent-based glues and other inhalants which may cause intoxication and other serious health problems. Sanctions and confiscation arrangements are similar to those which apply to cigarettes.



Illegal substances

The school will not tolerate the possession or use of illegal substances, including those formally known as legal highs, on school premises, on school organised events, or while pupils are travelling to or from school. In other words in any circumstance where the school is in "loco parentis". Pupils are informed on a regular basis of the consequences for breaking these school rules.

The possession of **any** illegal substance will risk a permanent exclusion from school. **If a pupil brings an illegal substance into school for the purpose of using, selling or distributing this substance, a permanent exclusion would be inevitable.**

Medicines

Please refer to our separate policy on medical information, medicines and health care plans at www.sarchs.com.

