



George Spencer
Academy

Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

GEORGE SPENCER ACADEMY

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY – EDITED VERSION

THE POSSESSION, USE OR SUPPLY OF ILLEGAL AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED DRUGS WITHIN THE SCHOOL BOUNDARIES IS UNACCEPTABLE.

Drug education is an entitlement for every student and is supported by Section 351, of the Education Act 1996 which requires every school, including PRUs, to provide a balanced curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society
- prepares students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

Staff with key responsibility for drugs

Named members of staff will oversee and co-ordinate drug issues and their key roles and responsibilities are listed below.

Fraser Mitchell – Principal – overall accountability

Andrew Field – Vice Principal – liaison with the Police in the event of a drug related incident

Caroline Holland and Amanda Bostock – Child Protection Officers – student welfare in the event of a drug related incident

Christopher Haggett – responsible for Drug Education in the iPhase and rPhase

Management of drugs at school

1) If drugs or drug paraphernalia, suspected illegal or unauthorised drugs are found in school they should be passed to the Police for safe disposal. The Vice Principal will arrange this. In the meantime they will be stored securely in the school safe or the Principal's office. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of substances suspected to be illegal for the purposes of preventing an offence to be committed or continued, providing that reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to the person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. All confiscations will be clearly labelled.

In taking possession of it the staff member should ensure that :

- a second adult witness is present throughout
- if possible, the substance is sealed in a plastic bag or container (we will request drug bags from the Police for this)
- If a needle/syringe is found this should be placed in a box or tin, using gloves
- the substance is brought to the school office for secure keeping as soon as possible
- they write a full report of the incident as soon as possible

2) If the school or member of staff suspects that a student is in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, suspected illegal or unauthorised drugs, the Director of Learning and Achievement, or link Vice Principal (dependent upon availability) should be informed and they will determine if a search of the student and their property will take place.

George Spencer Academy reserves the right to use teachers' powers to search students and/or their property without consent, in full accordance with current DfE guidance, for suspected use or possession of prohibited items including, but not restricted to, illegal drugs. The school always advises staff to seek consent where possible, before searching. Authorised staff must follow the DfE guidance in full if conducting a search of a student or their property. Detailed guidance is available in 'Searching, screening and confiscation' - Ref: DFE-00034-2014.

After any search involving students, parents/carers should normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative, or whether they had been available at the time that the decision to search was made.

Any student suspected or involved in a drugs issue or being in possession of drug paraphernalia, suspected illegal or unauthorised drugs will be kept in isolation and will be asked to give a written statement regarding the events leading to the incident. All students will be interviewed about their statement and be treated fairly whilst sufficient and reasonable information is gathered which

indicates the level of their involvement. They may be interviewed by the Child Protection Officer if a wider picture of familial substance abuse is suspected. The CPO will discuss whether a referral to Social Services is required. Senior staff will then decide on what action to take. The possible courses of action are described below.

3) If students are suspected or found to be taking or under the influence of drugs their parents/carers will be contacted as a matter of urgency. If large quantities of drugs or drug paraphernalia, suspected illegal or unauthorised drugs are obvious and found on their person the Police will be contacted at the same time as parents/carers. Once parents/carers have been contacted they will be invited into school to meet with senior staff. Usually the student will be sent home at this time.

All incidents will be dealt with on an individual basis, but in most cases where a student is involved in drugs (possession, use or profiting from) for the first time the following action will be taken:

- a fixed term exclusion will be given
- internal support services will be accessed (Pastoral Support Services, AIM)
- appropriate outside agencies will be consulted (eg: Social Services, YOT, etc)
- meetings will be held as appropriate, to discuss an action plan to determine the student's level of need to help support the student
- students will be required to undertake some drug awareness work

Depending on individual circumstances, permanent exclusion may be applied if students are found to be dealing in drugs, whether this is their first involvement or not.

4) All incidents will be dealt with on an individual basis, but in most cases where a student is involved in drugs (possession, use or profiting from) for the second time a case will be made for permanent exclusion. The Police will be contacted.

5) If it is clear that parents/carers are under the influence of drugs on school premises the Police will be called, using 999 if appropriate. In the meantime, staff and students' safety is paramount and they must not become involved in confrontation. The Academy's stance will be to encourage the parents/carers to leave the site in these circumstances to be contacted at a later date. Social Services will be informed as a matter of course. The school must inform the family that this has been done.

6) Staff members employed by George Spencer Academy suspected or found to be under the influence of illegal drugs will be treated in accordance with the Drugs and Substance Abuse policy. Please refer to the full Policy document.

How may the school respond in practical terms if substance abuse is suspected/confirmed?

1. The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the students involved with the interests of other school members.
2. However, in most cases parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity. The school and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved.
3. If a young person admits to using or supplying substances on or off the premises, the teacher will inform the Director of Learning and Achievement. They should inform the Vice Principal who will inform the parents.
4. Unless there is evidence of overt dealing or selling of drugs the school will not usually inform the Police if a student is involved in a drugs issue for the first time. They may be contacted to dispose of substances. On subsequent occasions the Police will be informed as a matter of course alongside the parents/carers.
5. Students caught dealing in drugs; supplying drugs to others; or buying on behalf of others will, subject to individual circumstances, be excluded from school on a permanent basis.

6. Police involvement

Schools have no legal obligation to inform the Police if illegal substances are found on students or the school property, however, our response will be in accordance with point 4 above. The Police will always be contacted to dispose of substances found. The school has a named Police Liaison Officer.

7. Use of Drugs Detection Dogs

The school reserves the right to call upon the services of the Police or a private company to bring Drugs Detection Dogs onto the school premises for serious circumstances. Please refer to the Operating Protocols below for further guidance.

Summary Guidance for Staff

1. Where a young person discloses substance misuse on the premises, staff will inform the Director of Learning and Achievement immediately, who will advise the Principal or Vice Principal who may involve the police and parents. Subsequent action will be taken following points 1-5 above.
2. Where a young person discloses substance misuse off the premises, the staff member will advise the Director of Learning and Achievement who will advise the Principal or Vice Principal who may involve the police and parents. Subsequent action will be taken following points 1-5 above.
3. Where staff suspect substance abuse, or ownership of substances, they should report to Head of Year immediately. The Director of Learning and Achievement will interview students as appropriate and action will be taken following points 1-5 above.
4. Where staff discover substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation, they should (where safe to do so), **in the presence of a witness**, remove them and in any case report the matter immediately to the Principal, Vice Principal and Director of Learning and Achievement. If the member of staff feels that this is unsafe, they should ask a student to find another member of staff. One of the staff members should remain with the substance and the other should seek assistance from a senior member of staff or a caretaker.

Operating Protocols for the use of Drugs Detection Dogs in Nottinghamshire Schools

Every school has the right to use Drugs Detection Dogs on the school premises if it so requires. At George Spencer Academy the use of Drugs Detection Dogs in school premises is seen as the last resort in tackling the use and supply of illegal drugs. Involvement of internal support systems, Connexions, drug education link workers and school drug advisors will always be our initial reaction to resolve drug related issues.

Guidance on the use of Drugs Detection Dogs

The school is within its rights to invite the Police or a private company to bring Drugs Detection Dogs onto the school premises. We have considered the following issues and will for each incident:

- Is there reasonable evidence of possession or supply of illegal drugs on the school premises? If yes, and we decide the Dogs will be used, parents/carers will be informed.
- The school will then liaise with the Police and gain the authority of a Police warrant to conduct the search.
- Drugs Detection Dogs will only be used when the school done everything in its power in accordance with the Drugs Guidance for schools and our Substance Abuse Policy.
- If the operation is culturally sensitive; ie: involving students and staff for whom dogs are considered unclean, they will be withdrawn from contact and searched by a Police Officer only.
- Measures are in place to ensure that students who are identified by a Drugs Detection Dog are not labelled or damaged in anyway. Internal and external support will be offered to students alongside their siblings and family members. Other students will be counselled and awareness raised. Whole school Drugs awareness work will always be completed to address drugs issues following a major drugs incident through the PSHE programme.
- If staff/visitors are identified by Drugs Detection Dogs they will be dealt with in accordance with the Drugs Policy Guidelines outlined in the full Policy

Drugs Detection Dogs as a deterrent

Nottinghamshire Police do not respond to the use of Drugs Detection Dogs solely as a deterrent. All operations will be warrant led only. We may choose to use dogs from a private company but recognize that Nottinghamshire Police do not support this approach, since this may cause parents and students to challenge the school's actions under the Human Rights Act. For this reason usually parents/carers will have given their consent should any such action be taken.

Confidentiality

At George Spencer Academy confidentiality does not imply secrecy; however, sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to students' rights and needs. The relevant staff and agencies will be informed of drugs related issues. In a disclosure situation, staff should follow general Child Protection guidelines and reassure the student that they are right to tell an adult and that they will seek appropriate help. On no account should staff promise not to pass on information or to keep it secret.

The Child Protection procedures to be followed if a student's safety is considered under threat are clearly defined in the relevant CP policy.

Policy prepared by	A Sherwood	June 2004
Revised by	A Sherwood	July 2005
Reviewed by	A Field	July 2009
Reviewed by	A Field	Sept 2010
Reviewed by	A Field	Nov 2011
Reviewed by	A Field	Oct 2012
Revised by	F Mitchell	Feb 2015