



Moat House

Drug and Alcohol Policy

This policy applies at all times to the school building and grounds and is equally applicable to:

- students
- staff
- volunteers
- governors
- adults, including parents
- visitors
- contractors
- others who come onto the school site on occasion, for whatever purpose
- those undertaking activities with students for which the school is responsible
- any form of transport used specifically for school purposes.

Definition and Terminology

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs act 1971).
- All legal volatile substances.
- All over the counter and prescription medicines (misuse of).

Some of our students are 18+ and therefore legally able to purchase Tobacco and Alcohol.

As we are a school for Teen mums and their babies, it is always in their best interest that we promote healthy lifestyles and do not accept the consumption of, selling of, or sharing of Tobacco /Alcohol between any members of our school community – whatever their age.*

It is recognised that there is no such thing as a safe drug and any drug use has associated risks and benefits. For simplicity we refer to "drug use" as the use of any drug legal or otherwise and "drug misuse" as drug use which leads or has led to a student or other person experiencing social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence upon their drug(s) of choice.

Problematic substance misuse is where the individual has little control over their behaviour, they are frequently and regularly under the influence of a substance and they present as a problem for themselves or the environment in which they exist.

We refer to drug incidents as situations or specific events involving a suspected or proven drug in unauthorised possession or use by anyone covered by this

policy, which includes adults as well as students, in any situation for which Moat House School is ultimately responsible.

Moat House School does not permit the misuse of drugs, nor the use or presence of unauthorised drugs on site or associated with any activity, anywhere, for which Moat House School is responsible.

- Medicines may be authorised to be brought onto site by students or their parents/carers, but only by prior and recorded arrangement in accordance with our “Managing Medical Conditions” Policy.
- Alcohol in sealed containers may only be brought on the premises by prior arrangement for special functions authorised by the governors, or the Headteacher via delegated powers. It must be securely stored and removed from the premises as soon as practicable after the event.
- Drug incidents will be dealt with fairly, with the well-being and health and safety of the whole school community being paramount as well as acknowledging the pastoral needs of individual students.
- Drugs misuse is a whole school issue, therefore all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, will be aware of the Policy and how it relates to them, should they be called upon to deal with a drug-related incident.
- Cleaning staff will regularly check the school premises – any substances, e-cigarettes or drug paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the Headteacher.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Governors

Governors will:

- In co-operation with the Headteacher, ensuring that an up to date policy for drug education and managing drug incidents is maintained and disseminated to all staff and is accessible to all interested parties, including parents/carers.
- In co-operation with the Headteacher, involve families, students, health and other professionals to ensure that the drug and alcohol curriculum addresses the needs of students, local issues and trends.

- Continue its involvement through regular evaluation of provision and policy. This will be achieved by termly discussion between the governor who has responsibility for safeguarding.

Headteacher

The Headteacher has responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work, including teaching and learning. The Headteacher's responsibilities in respect of drugs and alcohol are to:

- Provide a safe place of work for all staff and students and ensure the safety of their babies is not compromised.
- Work with governors to ensure compliance with Government legislation.
- Liaise with the Lifeskills and Science teachers to ensure the effective delivery of drug and alcohol education within the curriculum.
- Keep the Governing Body fully informed of provision, issues and progress around drugs and alcohol, through regular delegated meetings with the governor who has responsibility for safeguarding.
- Act upon any concerns which may arise from students' or staff drug and alcohol behaviours.
- Have regard to the fact that parents have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in potential harm to their child. This can be a very sensitive issue for parents, and therefore, it will be handled with care and consideration. The Headteacher will consider if there are any special circumstances, which may temper this right.

Staff

This includes all staff who work inside Moat House.

- Staff must report for work, and remain throughout the working day in a fit and safe condition to undertake their duties and ensure that their performance at work, whether that be in School or whilst involved in a school trip/educational visit, and their judgement are never impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- In particular, employees must ensure that their consumption of alcohol does not threaten the safe performance of their duties and that their behaviour never puts themselves or others at risk.

- Any employee who is subject to on-call arrangements must also ensure they are in a fit and safe condition during the on-call period.
- If the Headteacher is in doubt about a staff members' fitness for work, the staff member will be asked to leave the premises and a meeting will be arranged with them to discuss concerns at a later date.
- Staff will have access to continuing professional development opportunities for drug education and it will be outlined how this learning will be cascaded to others.

Students

- Students must report for school and remain throughout the working day in a fit and safe condition and not have their judgement impaired by alcohol or signs of drug misuse
- Students are not allowed to bring drugs and alcohol onto School premises*
- Students should not take drugs or consume alcohol whilst travelling to or from school.
- Students engaged in any off-site activity representing Moat House, for example any educational visits and work experience must not consume alcohol or drugs.
- 18+ students for whom purchasing alcohol is not illegal must not do so whilst with Moat House Staff or on any Moat House activity. Our school priority is to ensure the safety of our babies.

It may be necessary to invoke Stockport Child Safeguarding procedures if a student's safety or that of their baby is under threat

Parents/Carers

- Are responsible for ensuring that guidelines relating to medication in School are followed.
- Should keep the School informed of any drug/alcohol related concerns relating to their child(ren).
- Those who are acting as volunteers for school activities must adhere to the same requirements as staff regarding the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs.

Drug and Alcohol Education

Our Mission Statement and School Aims underpin all teaching at Moat House. All students are valued and encouraged within a safe and secure environment.

All young people need high quality drug and alcohol education so they have a thorough knowledge of their effects.

We provide Drug Education as part of our Science, RSHE, Lifeskills, Parenting and Child Development programmes as we seek to inform and educate our students.

At Moat House Drug Education will:

- enable students to make healthy, informed choices;
- Be taught about the law surrounding drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;
- provide accurate information about substances;
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- The school believes that the possession and misuse of substances in school or during the school day is totally inappropriate.
- Where students need to take prescribed medicines this will be dealt with under the School Medicines Policy.

Confidentiality

In managing drugs, schools need to have regard to issues of confidentiality. **Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality.** The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to students. If a student discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the student asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- child safeguarding;
- co-operating with a police investigation;
- referral to external services.

Every effort should be made to secure the Student's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information.

It may be necessary to invoke Stockport Child Safeguarding procedures if a student or that of their baby's safety is under threat. It should be only in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a Student's wishes, and even then the school should inform the students first and endeavour to explain why this needs to happen. These exceptions are defined by a moral or professional duty to act:

- where there is a Child Safeguarding issue;
- where a life is in danger.