



Drugs Policy

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The policy is informed by DfE and ACPO drugs advice for schools.
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QEGS actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies. This is a school where human rights are respected; as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of QEGS. The school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

1. AIMS

- To enable young people to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To widen understanding of related health and social issues of sex and sexuality, crime, HIV/AIDS.
- To help the school in responding to drug related incidents.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding of those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- To enable school staff and young people to identify sources or appropriate support.
- To inform pupil conduct and behaviour management within the physical boundaries of the school and also outside the school boundaries when pupils and staff participate in excursions and residential visits.

2. GUIDANCE REGARDING DRUGS

THE LEGAL POSITION

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

1. To be in possession of a controlled drug unlawfully.
2. To be in possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply it.
3. To supply or offer to supply a controlled drug (even where no charge is made for the drug).
4. To allow the premises you occupy or manage to be used unlawfully for the purpose of producing or supplying controlled drugs.

(Possession of a controlled drug can be defended if the drug was obtained to prevent another from committing an offence. Then all reasonable steps must be taken as soon as possible to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to have custody.)

CONFIDENTIALITY

Members of staff should never guarantee confidentiality regarding drug misuse issues. They are not protected in law and circumstances could arise which would make any commitment unrealistic. However, any disclosure of misuse by a pupil should be dealt with sensitively, calmly and positively.

PUPILS' RIGHT

Where pupils are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person, an effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances, for example by asking the pupil to turn out his/her pockets. If the pupil refuses, the police should be called in to deal with the situation. Parents should be contacted at this stage.

Young people have rights under The Children Act 1989 and can expect issues related to drugs to be handled with sensitivity.

3. PROCEDURE IF INCIDENTS OCCUR IN SCHOOL

DRUGS FOUND ON PREMISES

If a suspicious substance is found or confiscated, the following action should be taken:

1. If the substance is not illegal for the young person to possess or consume (e.g. all nicotine products including snus and nicotine pouches, alcohol, solvents, volatile substances dependent on age), the school should confiscate the substance and contact parents.
2. If the substance cannot be identified then it should be treated as illegal.
3. If the substance is illegal then:
 - Record date, time and place of incident, preferably in the presence of a witness. (If this is not possible, do not leave substance while you enlist support of another colleague as a witness. Have the record of the incident countersigned when possible.)
 - Take the substance immediately to the Headteacher, or in their absence to the Deputy Head or Assistant Head. Do not keep the substance on your person or in a place of safekeeping; to do so may place you at risk.
 - In the presence of the Headteacher, yourself and, if possible, the witness, the substance should be placed in a sealed container in the school safe. The package should be signed and dated by all present.
 - An accurate record of the time, date and circumstances of the findings must be made.
 - The Headteacher will arrange for the police to remove the substance. It is important that the substance be removed, if possible, on the same day as its discovery.

All the above applies also to the discovery of equipment associated with substance use (e.g. needles, syringes etc.). Any such equipment found should be handled by members of staff only and with the utmost care. The Headteacher will ensure that such materials are placed in a secure and rigid container to await collection.

PUPIL(S) IN POSSESSION OF DRUGS

If any pupil is found in possession of a suspicious substance, it is important not to moralise or sensationalise. The procedure to be followed is:

1. Talk calmly to those involved. Find out, if possible:
 - Who is involved?
 - What substance is involved?
 - What quantity of drug is involved?
 - What is the purpose of possession (e.g. found, handling, personal use, dealing)?
2. Then make a written record of the incident.
3. Parents are to be informed by telephone, followed up by a letter. The pupil(s) concerned should be informed and consulted about the home-school contact. (Parents might not be informed if there is a risk they could seriously over-react and possibly cause physical harm to the pupil. Parents might not also be informed if they are believed to be directly involved in the situation.)
4. Parents to be invited into school for consultation.
5. Support and counselling to be offered to pupil(s). Advice would be provided by the school pastoral team and/or Attendance Officer.
6. The school decides on a formal response. Permanent exclusion may be necessary, but the following should also be taken into account: severity of the incident, best interests of the pupil(s) involved, their

previous behaviour, best interests of other pupils in school, knowledge of family situation, involvement of outside agencies and services.

7. Child protection procedures should be observed. The teacher with responsibility for Child Protection, will give advice and will make a referral to children's services if necessary. However, any teacher may make a child protection referral; it is the responsibility of all adults working with children to promote student welfare and to safeguard pupils. Please refer to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for further information.

RIGHT TO SEARCH

In line with recent legislation the staff at QEGS reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Searches will be carried out by Heads of Year or members of the Senior Leadership Team of the same gender and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

Searching and screening students is conducted in line with the DfE's [latest guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#).

QEGS works closely with the community Police team. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items. Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

PUPIL(S) WHO HAVE TAKEN DRUGS

If a pupil is unconscious, then:

- Try to ensure another member of staff is present to help.
- Designated first aiders are detailed on the published 'General Arrangements for Health & Safety' notices displayed in school.
- Place pupil in recovery position.
- Assist with casualty's breathing by loosening clothing.
- **Do not** give the pupil anything to drink.
- Dial the emergency services (999).
- Collect any evidence of what has been taken. Be aware of needles hidden in clothing. Keep any vomited material.
- Wait for the ambulance to arrive, giving reassurance if the casualty comes round.

If a pupil is intoxicated, hallucinating or 'high', then:

- Be prepared for a range of behaviour, from depressed and very quiet to excitable and incoherent.
- Do not leave student unattended at any time.
- Watch him/her to make sure they do not wander off into danger. iv. Sit him/her in a quiet, well-ventilated room.
- Do not shout, threaten or attempt detailed discussion about their drug use.
- Talk quietly and calmly.
- Administer first aid if necessary, or summon help.

DRUG ISSUES ON A SCHOOL EXCURSION OR RESIDENTIAL TRIP

It is expected that teachers will speak to pupils about their conduct before an excursion takes place. This is particularly important when organising trips abroad; it is essential that any risk assessment should include a briefing for parents and pupils so that there can be no possible doubt about what is or is not permissible.

It is recommended that even when pupils have reached the age of 18 and are able to buy and drink alcohol in the UK, that they are not permitted to do so on school trips. Indeed, in some cases insurance policies can be invalidated if the injured party is found to have drunk alcohol prior to an accident.

It is important that teachers follow the same guidelines as in school, as far as is practically possible. When abroad it is, of course, important to understand that a different legal framework will exist. It is therefore essential that the teacher responsible for organising a visit abroad will notify the Headteacher as soon as possible of any drug or alcohol related incident so that appropriate advice and support can be provided.

BRINGING ALCOHOL INTO SCHOOL FOR 'LEGITIMATE' REASONS

The school often runs raffles and competitions and parents are often asked to donate prizes. Some parents will send bottles of alcohol as prizes, expecting their children to bring the bottle into school on their behalf. This has previously caused some difficulties so we therefore ask that if parents wish to donate alcohol, then they should bring in the bottles themselves and not ask their child to do so.

4. EDUCATION ABOUT DRUGS

The PSHE programme runs from Y7 to Y13. The programme is managed by Mrs Davies. Parents may, if they wish, consult Mrs Davies about the PSHE curriculum. In Y12 & Y13, all students participate in the Personal Development programme about drugs and alcohol. This programme reinforces issues raised in Key Stages 3 & 4 in a style more appropriate to the age of the audience.

THEMES COMMON TO KEY STAGE 3 AND 4

1. Personal responsibility
Taking responsibility for one's own safety and behaviour.
Personal responsibility for decisions about substance use.
2. Pressure from others
Coping with peer pressure and influence.
Examination of the influence of the media.
3. Knowledge and understanding
Consideration of the risks; are they the same for everybody?
Information about substances, including effects, appearance and relevant legislation.
School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco/vapes, solvents and illegal drugs. Myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance use.
4. Appropriate action
Appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance use occurs.
Where to seek help and support.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO/VAPES

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School is a smoke-free school for pupils, staff and visitors. Pupils who are found in possession of any nicotine products including snus and nicotine pouches/vapes/alcohol will be treated in accordance with the guidelines above. Their parents will be informed. They will receive advice from school (or other agencies, such as the school nurse) A specific unit in the Citizenship programme for Key Stage 3 deals with the dangers of tobacco/vapes.

No pupil of any age must be in possession of alcohol. Pupils who are found to be in possession of alcohol will be treated in accordance with the guidelines above. Their parents will be informed. They will receive advice from school on the dangers of overindulgence in alcohol. The PSHE programme in all Key Stages addresses the dangers of alcohol and discusses the use of alcohol in our society.

5. USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

- **Alcohol Change UK** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
- **ASH** (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco/vapes. Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk
- **Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only) Email: info@coramclc.org.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com
- **Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7766 9900 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk
- **Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)
- **Drugwise** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.org.uk
- **FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com; Website: www.talktofrank.com
- **Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.familylives.org.uk
- **Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org
- **Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044; Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>
- **Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

APPENDIX 1 – GUIDANCE ON DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL – ACTION IN OUTLINE

This diagram covers legal substances such as tobacco, alcohol or solvents, medicines, volatile substances as well as illicit drugs.

