

Drugs, Alcohol and Incidence Policy



**The Inspire Multi Academy Trust
(South West)**

March 2026



Rationale

At The Inspire Multi Academy Trust (TIMAT), we are committed to promoting children's health and well-being.

This is of the utmost importance for the school. Smoking, drugs and alcohol has proved to be a health risk and therefore in accordance with legislation, the school operates a strict no drugs and alcohol policy within its buildings and grounds. It is illegal to smoke in enclosed places, which is discussed in the school's 'No Smoking Policy'.

The first concern of TIMAT is to safeguard the health and safety of members of our school community. We recognise the need to provide a safe environment at school and to offer appropriate guidance and support to staff, pupils and parents/carers when the need arises. We are aware that where routes to advice and support are known to everyone within the school community, it is more likely that difficulties will be identified and addressed at an early stage.

While we acknowledge that use of drugs is a behaviour prevalent to differing extents in wider society, TIMAT will not knowingly permit or tolerate possession, consumption, supply or offer to supply of any drugs on school premises. If any of these offences are committed, they will be fully investigated and dealt with, ensuring that drug use or misuse is challenged.

Definition of a Drug

The term 'drug' as used in this policy includes illegal substances (covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) over-the-counter and prescription medicines; intoxicating substances on which the law may be open to interpretation such as Novel Psychoactive Substances (so –called 'legal highs'), the active ingredients in energy drinks, as well as nitrates (poppers); intoxicating substances not covered by legislation; licensed substances such as alcohol and tobacco; and gas or solvents in the context of abuse.

Aims

- ✦ To provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of our school community
- ✦ To take account of the differing needs of members of the school community
- ✦ To set clear boundaries which are known to pupils, parents/carers and staff, which are acted upon consistently
- ✦ To ensure that the response to drug incidents is both appropriate and consistent with the rationale and aims of our drug education programme

Objectives

- ✦ To ensure that members of our school community understand the school rules and procedures relating to drugs
- ✦ To deal with drug incidents promptly but not hastily, ensuring a full investigation and fair and consistent response which takes account of the differing needs of pupils, staff, and parents/carers
- ✦ To review this policy regularly in the light of any incidents that have taken place.

Responsible Staff

The staff member at TIMAT who will normally oversee the management of a drug related incident is **Aaron Meredith, Executive Headteacher or the Headteacher**. He will consult as appropriate with the school's Police Community Support Officer/Police.

School site

Regard will be given to the safe storage of cleaning and other materials (eg arts & crafts) which could be misused. The site will be regularly monitored for litter which might endanger personal safety or which indicates that substances have been used on the school site by the Facilities Team.

Procedure for Managing and Recording Incident

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

The above link contains a range of responses that may be appropriate where the incident involves a pupil's possession or use. Our schools are aware that while substance use in itself may not be problematic, it may be a symptom of a more significant underlying problem.

Where the incident involves disclosure by a pupil, care should be taken to safeguard pupils' significant relationships, for example with their parents or school staff, as far as possible. As their capacity for understanding increases, pupils will be made aware of issues relating to confidentiality and the differing roles of professionals within the school via their curriculum. Staff will receive training to ensure a secure understanding of the school's expectations with regard to confidentiality. In the event of serious concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of a pupil, the advice from Aaron Meredith, Executive Headteacher or Headteacher should be sought.

Parents/carers need to understand that if drugs are found on a pupil, the police may then decide to search the home. TIMAT may choose to complete the contract below when there is a drug related incident and involve the support of the AEO and PCSO.

All persons must abstain from using drugs or drinking alcohol while on the premises. This applies to staff, students, parents, carers, contractors and any other visitors to the premises. Staff accompanying children outside the school, are not permitted to take drugs or drink alcohol. We also request that parents accompanying children on outings with the school refrain from the above while caring for the children. Staff must not take drugs or drink alcohol while wearing their school lanyards or uniform as it is essential that staff are positive role models to children and promote a healthy lifestyle. Staff are not permitted to consume alcohol during their contractual hours of work or to care for the children if they have consumed alcohol prior to commencing work. Misuse of prescription drugs and over the counter drugs, including legal highs is also prohibited at any time.

Prescribed Drugs/Medication

It is the responsibility of the person whom the medication belongs, to ensure the medication is stored correctly, well away from all children. Staff needing to take prescribed medication during their working hours, must do in one of the offices or a space away from children.

Parent/Carer Co-operation

- ✦ Parents/Carers are not allowed to take drugs or consume alcohol while on the school premises.
- ✦ Parents/Carers are forbidden to bring alcohol or drugs into the school grounds.
- ✦ Parents/Carers being abusive to children, staff members or other parents while on the premises will be asked to leave. The police may be called in this instance. In the event we will ask that someone comes to take responsibility of the child, i.e. the next contact. If a carer has been abusive we will inform the parent and wait for them to collect their child. The perpetrator will no longer be allowed into or near the school premises.
- ✦ Any supply of drugs via Parent/Carer while on the school premises will result in loss of child place and result in information being shared with the police and local authorities.
- ✦ Alcohol, drugs/prescribed medication is forbidden to be left in a child's bag/belongings. These will be discarded by a staff member and the Parent/Carer will be informed immediately. All prescribed medicines must be omitted via the school office and recorded on Medical Tracker.

We have a collection policy for a Parent/Carer under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The following guidelines will apply, we will manage the incident tactfully to ensure that the professional relationship with the family is maintained:

- ✦ If a senior staff member has any concerns regarding the child's welfare, we would endeavour to speak to the Parent/Carer about the child's needs. Procedure will be followed in guidance with the safeguarding policy and child protection procedures.
- ✦ We will ensure that there are two staff present when speaking to a parent so staff do not jeopardise their own safety or the safety of others in these situations
- ✦ In the event that the Parent/Carer arrives under the influence of alcohol and drugs we will ask that someone comes with the Parent/Carer to take responsibility of the child. Should this not happen, we reserve the right to contact any relevant authorities that we deem appropriate such as the police, children's services etc. Any member of staff feeling threatened will contact the police in the first instance.
- ✦ Staff will make a full written report of the incident and this will be recorded on the schools safeguarding platform.
- ✦ A child's safety is our main concern and as such this will determine the course of action taken.

Drug Education at TIMAT

Aim of Drug and Alcohol Education

The aim of teaching children and young people about alcohol and other drugs is to support them in making informed choices, delaying first substance use and preventing the development of harmful patterns of substance use in adulthood. This can impact upon an individual's quality of life and future aspirations. Effective teaching about alcohol and other drugs through PSHE and Science education is one key element of prevention work. However, in order to achieve its aims, this teaching should be implemented as one aspect of a wider whole-school approach.

(PSHE Association Evidence Review on Effective drug and alcohol education)

What Drug and Alcohol Education looks like at TIMAT

The Department for Education (DfE)'s statutory guidance for Health Education at primary phase requires that pupils be taught the facts and risks associated with drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping use.

At TIMAT, alongside the statutory requirements, teaching about how to manage social influence, pressure and risk is vital in promoting pupils' ability to navigate the situations in which they may encounter substances. It also contributes to safeguarding, by providing pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attributes, skills and strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Teaching about drugs and alcohol is integrated within a planned PSHE education curriculum (see PSHE curriculum), where it enhances – and can be enhanced by – teaching in other topic areas. For example, lessons on mental health and emotional wellbeing will include teaching healthy coping mechanisms and the importance of seeking support and help. Drugs and alcohol education is also part of the statutory science curriculum.

Teaching programme, strategies and resources

Drug Education is delivered through the PSHE programme by class teachers in whole class or group situations using a broad variety of teaching and learning strategies. It is also taught via one off events such as Wellbeing Week, Assemblies delivered by PCSOs and via the Science National Curriculum. The PSHE coordinator will review the drug

education provision on an annual basis through discussion with the teachers involved with the delivery of the programme and the school council. Where the teaching and learning includes issues, which may be sensitive staff and pupils will work within clearly understood and applied ground-rules from the PSHE Association Guidance.

Special Educational Needs

Children registered as having Special Educational Needs have the same right to good drug education as any other pupil and will be taught alongside all other pupils. However, teachers must be aware of, and respond to their needs in drug education lessons just as in any others.

Use of Visitors and outside agencies

Visiting facilitators can enhance the delivery of drugs education and some pupils do respond better if they perceive the deliverer to be an 'expert' rather than their 'normal' teacher. However, visitors will only be used in the programme if they can offer an expertise, an approach or pupil response which cannot be achieved by the teachers. Where visitors and outside agencies are involved, their contribution must have been planned as part of an overall programme of Drug Education. Their contribution should complement the teaching already taking place in the school.