Drugs Policy

Hampton Gardens

Policy last reviewed:	September 2026
Next review due:	September 2029
Member of staff responsible:	Atul Karia, Deputy Head of School
Ratified by:	Hampton Gardens Local Governing Body

HAMPTON GARDENS: DRUGS POLICY

Aims

1.1 The aim of this policy is to clarify how the School will deal with the issue of drugs. The policy provides information and guidance about drugs education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for students, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

1.2 The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-School one and is part of our commitment to the health and well-being of the whole School community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drugs education and students need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

1.3 This policy aims to make clear our procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the School's Behaviour Policy. The Drugs Policy should also be read in conjunction with the Health and Safety Policy. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and students will be reminded of the Drugs Policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the School premises, School transport as well as School visits/trips/fieldwork/residentials etc.

2. **Definition:**

"Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco, vapes and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc.

The School believes that the possession and/or use of such drugs in School, during the School day or while travelling to/from School is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto School premises during the School day, or while students are on School visits. Individual exceptions may be made for students who need to take prescription medicines during the school day.

3. **Drugs Education**

The School provides a planned drugs education curriculum through the following:

(i) The National Curriculum Science order outlines the content of the statutory element of drugs education:

- Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds will be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange

- Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds will be taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions

(ii) Personal Development lessons will focus on knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills relating to drugs; this will:

- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to 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
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drugs education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors should be used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The School actively cooperates with agencies such as the LA, police, health and drug agencies.

4. **Statutory duty of the School**

The Head of School takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of a drug education/substance coordinator who will have general responsibility for handing day to day implementation of the policy. The Head of School will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

A School cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, and as much other relevant information as possible will be passed to the police.

5. **Implementation of the policy**

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the School day, and following discussion with the student and staff, action will proceed as follows:

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with.

- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply **on the premises**, during the School day or during School visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken. Parents/carers will be informed by the Head of School a soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate, e.g. support workers etc. Whilst each case will be considered on its merits, examples of likely outcomes are as follows:

- Use or possession of alcohol, vapes or other banned substances on the School premises could result in either a Fixed Term suspension or Permanent Exclusion.

- Supplying to other students - Permanent Exclusion

- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances **off the premises**, the appropriate action will be to inform the Head of School, who will inform the parents/carers. While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the Head of School in consultation with governors and staff who know the young person well.

- The governing body will be involved in monitoring drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the School.

- The Head of School will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required.

- All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS:

…….	…….	October 2026
SIGNATURE	NAME	DATE

DATE OF POLICY REVIEW: September 2026