



Perton Middle School

Drugs Policy

Perton Middle School 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 who violate our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies. The responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of Perton Middle School. 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. The use, possession, production or supply of illegal drugs on site is never tolerated and may be reported to the Police.

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided through the Science Curriculum, The Moral Compass Sessions and our PSHEE programme.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' the school is referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. the premises of a school trip or visit.

Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be

followed for everyone's safety. A form is completed by a parent/carer giving a student permission to administer a prescribed drug, or an over the counter drug such as paracetamol. This is kept in the Medical Room in an envelope with the medication. The first aid staff witness the medication being taken, and log the procedure in to the medical log book.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (staff, students, parents, carers and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to remove their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

Smoking/Vaping

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. If a staff member is suspected of being under the influence the Police may be contacted.

Solvents

"Solvent abuse is the deliberate inhalation of volatile chemicals for the purpose of getting intoxicated or 'high'. The fumes and gases inhaled are found in everyday products such as cigarette lighter refills and aerosols."

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances which are authorised are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents:

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances
- involvement in "county line" or gang related drug issues

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

A fixed Term Suspension from School will be considered in all drug related instances. A Permanent Exclusion will be considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and if
- Allowing a student to remain at Perton Middle School would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school.

A member of the SLT will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the Executive Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (June 2019) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:
 - could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
 - poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
 - could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored.

Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Families First, or Child Protection.

Confidentiality

Perton Middle School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate. Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to the wider community. Regarding disclosures, staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our school, the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents/carers. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school could be from a form tutor, Pastoral Leader, Member of SLT or school counsellor.
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. T3 Services, One Recovery, YOS, Saplings
- Working with the Police

Right to Search

In line with legislation, the staff at Perton Middle School 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. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.

Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team, and always carried out in pairs. Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened. If inappropriate articles are brought into school or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection by Parents or Carers

at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal, they will be handed to the Police for safe disposal.

Perton Middle School works closely with the local PSCOs. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law, the police will be informed, and the items removed. Parents and Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews. 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. Child protection will also be contacted.

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.

Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: <http://ash.org.uk>

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

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