

Drugs Policy

Urmston Grammar



Written by: P Roberts **Date:** 21/9/2022

Approved by: Headteacher **Date:** 7/10/2022

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The policy is informed by DfE and ACPO drugs advice for schools.

[Advice template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Urmston Grammar consistently works towards provision of 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 drugs policy.

At Urmston Grammar, we expect our students to take pride in their place in our community, participate in a responsible way with all activities and show empathy to those around them. This means that we expect all members of our community to take responsibility for maintaining the high standards of behaviour and standards that we seek to uphold.

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.

Education and prevention

Education is the primary defence against legal and illegal drug use so at Urmston Grammar we deliver age-appropriate content to all of our students about drugs and drug use. The topic is revisited regularly through the PSE curriculum but is also discussed within Science lessons and in assemblies.

What is a drug?

A drug is a substance that impacts on body functions. This may be a physical, emotional or mental effect. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'drug' relates to illegal **and** legal substances, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medications and new psychoactive substances.

Drug paraphernalia includes but is not limited to cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters, pipes and e-cigarettes.

Drugs on school premises

The term 'school premises' includes everywhere within the boundaries of the property, including buildings, playgrounds and fields. The term also extends to any location that is utilised during a school trip.

Our students are also subject to the expectations and sanctions outlined in this policy during their journey to and from school and when wearing the Urmston Grammar uniform.

Medicine

The school has a medical policy which outlines policy and procedure for prescription and non-prescription medicines. Any prescription medicine carried by a student that is not prescribed to them will be classed as an illegal drug.

Alcohol

Alcohol may not be brought onto school premises or consumed during the school day. Any adult (Staff, students or visitors) under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date

If a student is found to be under the influence of alcohol, parents will be asked to collect them, and they will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support. A sanction will also be imposed.

Smoking/e-cigarettes

Urmston Grammar is a non smoking/ non-vaping site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring smoking materials, matches or lighters to school. In the event that a student is found in possession of such materials, including e-cigarettes, the items will be confiscated and destroyed and parents will be informed. Smoking or vaping on or within 200m of the school premises, or further away while wearing uniform will result in a serious consequence being given.

Illegal drugs and psychoactive substances

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances (herbal highs) or drugs paraphernalia should be brought onto or used on the school premises. Bringing such items into school is a serious breach of the drugs policy.

Seeking to influence others or glamourise drugs use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises, or via social media is also considered to be a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if 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.

Responding to drugs related incidents

Incidents include but are not limited to:

- 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 other students using drugs.
- Hiding drugs on school premises for later collection (by themselves or a third party).
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances.

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

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

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

A member of the SLT will (normally) 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 making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug misuse outside the school, premises

In line with [Behaviour & Discipline in Schools- Guidance](#) (September 2022) 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
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

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 a police officer 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, Young Offenders Service, police, GP, social services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Urmston Grammar 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 (please refer to our Safeguarding policy for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At Urmston Grammar, 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. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- support and advice in school (Counsellor, School Nurse, Head of School, Pastoral Leader, Tutor, Pastoral Manager);
- referral to specialist outside agencies for support;
- Working with the police.

Right to Search

In line with recent legislation the staff at Urmston Grammar 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 members of the Senior Leadership Team or the Pastoral Team of the same gender; Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened. Urmston Grammar will work closely with the police.

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.

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

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: www.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.

Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

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

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>