



Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Adopted:	September 2020
Reviewed:	October 2025
Next Review:	October 2026
Governing Committee:	6 November 2025
Responsibility:	James Pearson

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Introduction

This policy outlines policy for **TMBSS** for:

- Drug Awareness and Education
- Management of drug related incidents

Definitions

Substance misuse refers to using alcohol, illicit drugs, or prescription medications in a way they are not meant to be used.

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- all legal substances, including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled),
- all over the counter and prescription medicines that have not been prescribed to the person taking them.

The term drug paraphernalia refers to **any equipment that is used to produce, conceal, and consume illicit drugs**. It includes but is not limited to items such as bongs, roach clips, miniature spoons, and various types of pipes

Young Person Trends – taken from Young People’s substance misuse statistics 2023-2024

There were 14,352 children and young people (aged 17 and under) in alcohol and drug treatment between April 2023 and March 2024. This is a 16% increase from the previous year (12,418). However, the number in treatment is 41% lower than the peak of 24,494 in 2008 to 2009.

Cannabis remained the most common substance (87%) that children and young people came to treatment for.

Around 2 in 5 children and young people in treatment (39%) said they had problems with alcohol use, 9% had problems with ecstasy and 8% reported problems with powder cocaine use.

The number of children and young people in treatment for solvent and inhalant misuse, which includes using nitrous oxide, continued to increase. This has risen from 329 (2.9%) children and young people reporting a problem in 2021 to 2022, to 881 (6.1%) in 2023 to 2024. There was also a rise in the number reporting problems with ketamine, from 512 (4.5%) in 2021 to 2022 to 1,201 (8.4%) this year, which means more children and young people reported problems with ketamine than with cocaine for the first time.

Rationale

At TMBSS, we aim to ensure that our approach to drugs is a whole school one, designed as part of our commitment to, and concern for, the health and wellbeing of our whole school community. We have a statutory duty to promote the welfare of all students

This policy is based on evidence-based guidance provided by:

- Public Health England
- With You
- Mind
- Alcohol Education Trust
- PSHE Association.

This policy also relates to, and complements other school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- E Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Smoking Policy
- PSHE Policy

Drug education is provided at TMBSS to ensure that students receive consistent, clear and thoroughly planned lessons appropriate to their age and stage of maturity, understanding and knowledge.

Drug education contributes to children's health and safety; it is part of a broad and balanced curriculum. An understanding of drugs enables students to make informed, safe decisions and forms part of the school's duties under safeguarding

We aim to ensure that the approaches and processes that we follow for drug related incidents are clear for all students, staff, parents and the wider community.

We aim to manage drugs in a way, which enables students to access educational opportunities in a safe environment. We manage drugs, which are medicines, as well as legal and illegal drugs in a lawful, responsible way, which ensures the health and safety of individuals and community.

We are mindful of the evidence that suspension of a student for drug or smoking related incidents increases their vulnerability, increasing exposure to exploitative and coercive relationships, often increasing their risk around substance use and sexual behaviour. Any decision to suspend is given consideration and is risk assessed and is managed in line with the behaviour policy

At TMBSS, we have links with:

- West Mercia Police
- Shropshire Social Care
- Shropshire LA TREES team (Together Reducing and Ending Exploitation in Shropshire)
- With You – young person's substance misuse team
- Shropshire Detached Youth Team
- and other external organisations

These professional relationships ensure our school reflects and responds to issues and trends affecting our local community. This is especially pertinent in relation to the use of substances in the context of child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, grooming and illegal supply of drugs and alcohol.

Confidentiality

The welfare and voice of the child will always be central to any TMBSS's procedures and practice. All students need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem. However, in line with Safeguarding procedures, staff will not be able to promise complete confidentiality and information about a child in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information.

Workplace Health

Members of staff need to be aware of procedures in relation to working and drug taking. Staff need to be clear about how they may access support, if required.

Staff can seek further advice from the Staff Code of Conduct, which is available in the Staff Handbook

Part One: Drug Education

From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives – is the Government Policy and Strategy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

States:

Delivering school-based prevention and early intervention – delivering and evaluating mandatory relationships, sex and health education to improve quality and consistency, including a clear expectation that all students will learn about the dangers of drugs and alcohol during their time at school.

The strategy sets out the action needed at both a national and local level in order to ensure an effective universal approach to preventing drug use, including the promotion of health and wellbeing across the life course and building resilience.

The strategy goes on to underline the key role of schools and particularly PSHE in helping children and young people develop confidence and resilience, key protective factors in effective prevention.

Drug education is delivered in science as part of national curriculum as well as in PSHE. Other curriculum subjects also make contributions towards the teaching of drug education and cross-curricular links and opportunities in RE, English, Drama etc. should be utilised.

Drug Education at TMBSS aims to:

- Enable students to make informed healthy and safe choices by increasing their knowledge, challenge their understanding and develop their skills.
- Support students to develop positive self-esteem and resilience in order to help them assert themselves, respond to pressure, assess risks and seek help, support and advice to keep them and others safe from harm.
- Provide accurate, factual and up to date information about substances.
- Challenge common misconceptions around substance misuse.

The PSHE programme is planned and taught in line with national curriculum guidance, DFE guidance, PSHE association recommendations, and Ofsted requirements,

PSHE is a co-ordinated programme which addresses keeping safe, healthy relationships and understanding the world around you as part of a planned, progressive and age appropriate curriculum.

The Shropshire Respect Yourself Relationship and Sex Education programme includes issues related to substance use, peer pressure, managing harmful sexualised behaviours and consent and is complemented by the PSHE Association curriculum and other online resources

In PSHE, we use a wide range of teaching and learning approaches. We undertake assessment for and of learning and the students will be engaged in identifying what they currently know and understand.

Myths and misinformation will be discussed, attitudes and values will be challenged and realistic case studies and scenarios will be explored to help students assess risk, consider options and consequences.

TMBSS utilises the DFE statutory PSHE Guidance, for alcohol and drug education and prevention in schools.

External agencies and visiting speakers will only be used to complement and support the planned curriculum.

PSHE policies and additional information can be found on TMBSS's website.

Evidence shows that drug education programmes and approaches that rely upon scare tactics, knowledge only approaches, mass media campaign or the use of ex –users and the police as drug educators in schools where their input is not part of wider evidence based programme are not effective.

In addition, the PSHE Association advises caution about the use of drop-down days if used in isolation and not as part of a planned PSHE programme.

Evidence has been used to inform not just what we teach but when. Year 8 & 9 is the optimum time to dispel myths and clarify peer norms and develop skills related to peer pressure and influence. Experimentation among those who are curious and are looking to establish status among peers can, and may be factors related to substance use for young people in year 7 -9. Please see Appendix 1 for further information on resources.

Summary Drug Education Approaches

Effective

Curriculum and weekly timetabled lessons
Trained teacher delivery
Challenge myths
Focus on skills and resilience.
“Keep Safe” work and safe practise
Discussion based activities

Non-Effective

One-off / standalone sessions
Shock tactics

Drug and Alcohol Education as part of PSHE & Whole school approach:

Students voice is present throughout all learning
All staff take a consistent approach and deliver the same message
Up to date information and facts are taught
Lesson plans amended to include any current changes in legislation

TMBSS staff are aware that some students will require targeted support.

We use a wide range of agencies, specifically able to support students who are facing a variety of challenges around substances, either directly or indirectly.

These include With You, Detached Youth Services, Catch 22, Trees Team, Social Prescribing, Steer Clear, and School Nurse Services, including the Youth Team.

If we have any concerns over an individual young person’s drug and / or alcohol use, we will, with the young person’s consent and involvement, complete the Shropshire “With You” SMARTER Screening Tool (please see Appendix 1). “With You” also offer a “meet and greet” service to meet students that may be initially reluctant to engage with the service. We are also able to request support from the substance misuse worker within the Shropshire TREES Team (together reducing and ending exploitation in Shropshire) They are able to offer bespoke pieces of work with identified students.

Part Two: Drug Related Incident Procedure

School Boundaries

- The school boundary is the school perimeter fence.
- The school day is 9:15a.m. to 2:15 p.m. within KS3/4
- If a drug related incident takes place in the immediate vicinity of the school, near the start or end of the school day, at an after-school club or at an evening school event, it will be dealt with at the discretion of the Head Teacher or other designated member of the senior management team.
- Drug related incidents occurring during school day trips or residential trips will be dealt with as if it had occurred within the school's boundaries.

Health and safety of the child should always be the principal concern when responding to all incidents.

Shropshire Council are in the process of producing a Drug, Alcohol and Vaping Toolkit for Schools to use. Further details to be updated as soon as possible.

Procedure

- If you have concerns that a student is under the influence of substances or may have substances/paraphernalia on them follow the process in Appendix A.
- If a student is under the influence of substances and there is no requirement for emergency services, ensure that they are comfortable and not left alone.
- Take an understanding approach and do not ask any leading questions.
- Report all incidents to a DSL.
- Record all concerns on Cpoms.

Power to search, screening and confiscation.

Current legislation (Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Education Act 1996) gives staff the legal provision to confiscate, retain and dispose of items from students so long as it is reasonable to do so and the power to search for prohibited items. The law protects staff from damage to and loss of any confiscated items provided staff have acted lawfully. The power to search without consent is given for:

- Weapons/knives
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs and legal drugs which we believe may be used inappropriately
- Stolen property
- Tobacco, vapes and other smoking paraphernalia
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that is likely to be used to commit offence, cause injury or damage to property

- Any item banned by school rules Consequences for the discovery of these items will depend upon the items themselves, e.g. weapons and knives must be handed over to the police. In all cases the parents will be informed.

Information taken from TMBSS Behaviour Policy <https://www.tmbss-shropshire.org.uk/site/data/files/policies/june-25/446A5FE3C91850264A57C0086B62AE65.pdf>

Part Three: Staff Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Authorising the Drugs and Alcohol policy and any subsequent reviews of the policy and ensuring that the terms and ethos of this policy are followed.
- Reviewing the policy every year in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Monitoring the number and nature of drug related incidents and the outcomes, including any disciplinary action.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all staff are provided with the required training and guidance to deliver effective drug education and respond to drug related incidents.
- Ensuring that students are aware of the regulations around the prohibition of substances within school and the expectations on them to follow the regulations
- Ensuring that clear procedures for drug related incidents with appropriate sanctions consistent with the school's behavior, exclusion and safeguarding policy are in place.
- Liaising with external agencies and organisations.
- Ensuring that all staff receive regular updates and training

The Personal Social Health Education Lead is responsible for:

- Reviewing and updating PSHE Policy and Scheme of Work considering current research and local and national data.
Monitoring the effectiveness and quality of the planned and delivered curriculum for PSHE/Drug Education.
- Providing leadership and training for teachers.
- Auditing and monitoring resources for effective teaching and learning.
- Producing an annual PSHE report for school governors, to include recommendations and the identification of opportunities and threats to good practice.

All staff at TMBSS are expected to: follow the procedures and processes within the policy.

Appendix 1: Summary of Drug Education Resources and Approaches

KS2: Life Skills Focus

Resources available from:

Mentor

Shropshire Respect Yourself (RSE Programme)

PSHE Association Curriculum:

KS3: Friendship & Social Group Focus

Alcohol in the context of peer pressure/ Self-esteem & decision making

See the Shropshire Respect Yourself RSE lessons

The Law and Exploitation

Managing Risk and where to seek support

Resources available from:

PSHE Association

NSPCC

With You

School Nurse Team

KS4: Experimentation & Personal Identity Focus

Drug education in the context of relationships, managing emotions and peer norms

Building resilience, decision making skills and self-esteem.

The Law and Exploitation

Managing Risk and where to seek support

Resources available from:

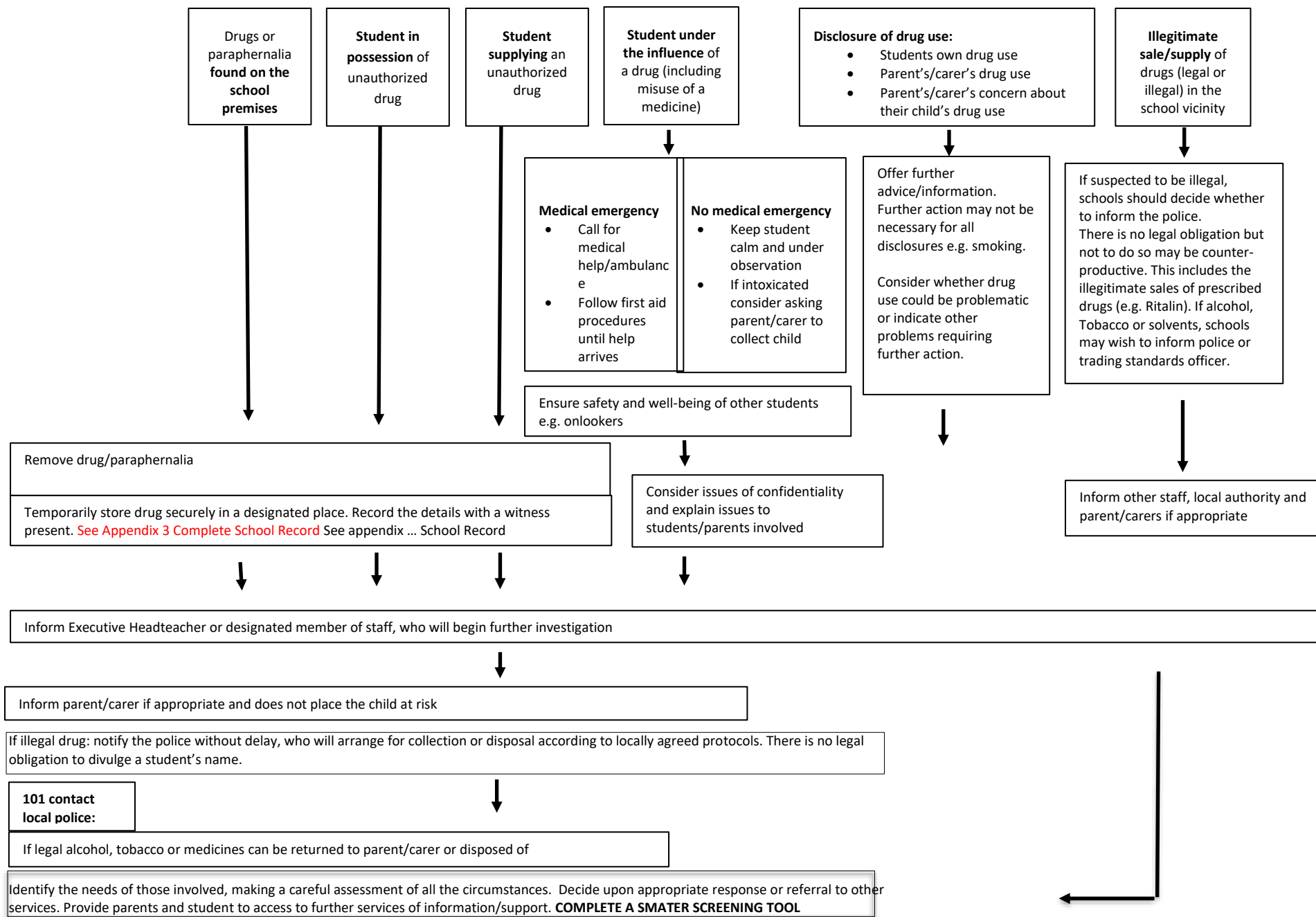
PSHE Association

NSPCC

With You

School Nurse Team

Appendix 2: Responding to Incidents Involving Drugs



Appendix 3

With You Smarter Screening Tool

Please follow the link to the Smarter Screening Tool from With You

<file:///C:/Users/spelman.e/Downloads/WITH%20YOU%20SMARTER%20Screening%20Tool.pdf>

Appendix 4 Drugs and Sex Related Litter

These guidelines are intended to minimise risk to students and staff.

Any member of staff who becomes aware of substances or paraphernalia should treat it as a potentially harmful substance.

Inform the Executive Head of Service or another member of SLT

Do not touch the item

Isolate the area

The SLT should contact the police or Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9006 to organise safe disposal

Appendix 5

Shropshire Council Drug, Alcohol and Vaping Policy Toolkit for Schools

<https://www.shropshirelg.net/media/n3fbqrez/final-drug-alcohol-vapes-toolkit-v1.pdf>