



AMESBURY SCHOOL
HINDHEAD

AMESBURY SCHOOL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Last updated: MA/Jan 25
Next update: MA/Dec 26

Amesbury School Drugs and Alcohol Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Amesbury School's stance on the management and prevention of drug and alcohol misuse. It is designed to safeguard the welfare of pupils, staff, and the wider school community, in line with statutory duties and best practices as advised by the Department for Education (DfE) and other relevant bodies.

2. Definitions

- **Drugs:** A substance that people take to change the way they feel, think, or behave. This includes illegal substances, prescription medications not prescribed to the user, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, and new psychoactive substances (NPS, often referred to as 'legal highs')
- **Alcohol:** Any beverage containing ethanol.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils, staff, parents, and visitors on school premises or during school-related activities
- The possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol within these contexts.

4. School Stance on Drugs and Alcohol

- Illegal and unauthorised drugs, including alcohol, are strictly prohibited on school premises or during school-organised activities
- The health and safety of the school community is paramount, with the first concern being the well-being of all involved.

5. Education and Prevention

- Drug and alcohol education is integrated into the PSHE and science curricula to provide pupils with accurate information about the risks associated with misuse
- The programme includes lessons on the effects of alcohol and tobacco, safe use of medicines, and the dangers of substance misuse
- Staff receive regular training to support this education and identify potential issues.

6. Management of Drug and Alcohol-Related Incidents

- **Confiscation and Disposal:** Any drugs or alcohol found will be confiscated. Controlled drugs will be stored securely and reported to the police for proper disposal
- **Medical Emergencies:** If a pupil is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the school will prioritise their safety, administer first aid, and contact emergency services if necessary. Parents or guardians will be informed promptly
- **Discipline:** Responses to drug-related incidents balance the individual needs of pupils with the wider school community's safety. Permanent exclusion will be considered only in severe cases.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Headteacher is the senior member of staff responsible for overseeing the policy and all drug-related issues
- All staff are expected to adhere to this policy and act as role models by refraining from drug or alcohol misuse.

8. Police Involvement

The school will notify the police of any incidents involving illegal drugs. For legal substances, police involvement will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.

9. Involvement of Parents

Parents will be informed of any incidents involving their child unless doing so poses a risk to the child. The school actively involves parents in the development and review of this policy and the wider education programme.

10. External Support and Collaboration

The school collaborates with local health services, drug advisory bodies, and other external agencies to support pupils and families affected by substance misuse.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed biennially to ensure it reflects current legislation and best practices. Feedback will be sought from staff, pupils, and parents to inform revisions.