



DRUG, SMOKING AND ALCOHOL POLICY

September 2026

1. Introduction

This policy applies to the whole school, including the EYFS.

This policy is written in accordance with the Children Act 2004, Education and Skills Act 2008 and Childcare Act 2006.

The Newcastle School is committed to the health and safety of all its community and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs, tobacco and alcohol in the school context is totally forbidden. The school context is defined as being on school premises, during a school activity or whilst representing the School and wearing uniform. Any such instance will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter.

In this policy document when referring to “drugs”, the School includes all illegal drugs, controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, misuse of “legal” or prescription drugs, alcohol, vaping, smoking, volatile substances / solvent abuse, other substances taken to change mood or behaviours (including so called “legal highs” and the use of nitrous oxide).

This policy does not apply to prescribed medicines that are used in accordance with medical guidance.

The Newcastle School believes that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances.

At any stage if a member of staff is concerned about a pupil, this must be recorded and reported in line with the School’s Safeguarding and child protection policy.

2. Educational programme

The Newcastle School has extensive health education and PSHE programmes that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse, alongside alcohol and tobacco. As with our related programmes concerning alcohol and tobacco, they concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. However, they also include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying

with the criminal law. Our programmes guide pupils towards making the correct choices towards healthy lifestyles. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE and Science lessons. The School also delivers assemblies on the topic, talks from the police and periodically make use of external specialists to cover the serious risks from abuse of illegal substances and from alcohol and tobacco.

3. Illegal drugs, smoking and alcohol

Pupils at The Newcastle School are not allowed to bring illegal drugs, tobacco, vapes or alcohol onto the premises, to consume these substances on the journey to or from school or whilst they are representing the School and wearing School uniform.

Pupils in Years 12 and 13 who are allowed to leave the school site during the day are forbidden to visit pubs or bars, from smoking or consuming alcohol and/or illegal drugs. This rule applies to all school trips and visits, whether in this country or overseas, irrespective of whether or not pupils are wearing school uniform at the time.

The Newcastle School is a public place; smoking is therefore illegal for everyone, including staff and visitors.

The School will offer wine to parents and other adult guests at certain formal events, including plays and concerts to which they are invited. Pupils of any age are not permitted to drink on these occasions. Soft drinks are always available at such events.

Pupils caught breaching these guidelines on alcohol, illegal drugs, or are caught smoking or consuming alcohol can expect to be suspended and for their parents to be invited to the School in order to discuss the matter.

A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling where the School has reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil has issues with illegal drugs, tobacco or alcohol, for example, when there are repeated infringements.

4. Support

Pupils can discuss their individual worries about illegal drugs, smoking or drinking with their Form Tutor, their Senior Tutor, the Head of Sixth Form or the Head of Senior School. The School offers a counselling service which may additionally help support pupils.

In addition to this, the School promotes proactive preventative strategies including peer support, anonymous reporting and counselling provision for pupils who do **not** test positive but show concern.

If a pupil comes forward and voluntarily identifies themselves as a drug user and asks for help, or, if parents or friends ask for help on their behalf, the School may,

depending upon the circumstances and, at the discretion of the Head, offer the pupil the opportunity to reform their habit with the support of a drug testing and counselling programme.

Any additional costs relating to testing and/or counselling may be passed to families.

5. Investigation

Where there are reasonable grounds to do so, the School will always investigate pupils suspected involvement in drugs, smoking and substance abuse. The investigation will usually be undertaken by a member of the School Leadership Team. The investigation is likely to include questioning a pupil and may involve a search of their personal possessions. The School will inform parents/carers as a matter of urgency and invite them into the School to discuss the matter.

The School's searching and confiscation procedures are informed by the DFE document [Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools](#) (July 2022).

6. Sanctions

The normal sanction for possession or involvement with drugs is permanent exclusion. Alternative sanctions, when there are mitigating circumstances, could involve a temporary exclusion and a final warning.

Any pupil found offering drugs to another pupil will be permanently excluded and the matter may be referred to the police. This is in line with our Discipline and Exclusions Policy.

7. Drug testing

Drug testing is organised in conjunction with appropriate third-party specialist providers.

If a pupil is suspected of taking illicit drugs, then the School will seek to undertake appropriate drug testing. What is deemed "appropriate" will depend on the context of the concern and other factors that from time to time may vary.

Full informed consent for testing will be requested. The School would expect that this request would not be unreasonably withheld. There may be a charge for the drug testing and its analysis. This cost would be borne by the parent/carer.

Depending on the result of a first drug test, and/or the history, further drug testing may be needed. The decision to carry out further testing would rest with the Head, informed by the circumstances and any appropriate professional advice. Again, full informed consent would be sought and the School would expect that this would not be withheld unreasonably.

If a pupil fails their first drugs test, they will only be allowed to remain at the school on the condition that the Head (or a delegated member of the leadership team) feel that the circumstances are appropriate and conditional on agreement to further drug testing.

However, it should also be noted that depending on the circumstances/ background of the ongoing investigation, even if a pupil's first drug test is negative for the illicit drugs, or if a drugs test was not performed due to informed consent was being withheld, the pupil may still be asked to leave the school with immediate effect.

If a second test for illicit drugs is positive or if there is evidence that a sample has been tampered with in any way, then the pupil will be required to leave the School immediately.

8. The Needs of Pupils, Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The School will exercise its pastoral responsibilities and always look to support pupils and ensure that pupils have access to appropriate support and guidance.

Situations requiring first aid will be dealt with immediately as per the School's First Aid Policy.

If the School has concerns about a child's safety, the School will share information with law enforcement agencies and safeguarding agencies, as outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. This includes working in partnership with external agencies.

The School will inform parents/guardians of any drug related incidents, unless in very rare circumstances this would heighten the risk to the child.

9. Police Involvement

The School reserves the right to contact the police if the School becomes aware of information relating to an incident involving illegal drugs or substances.

The School may decide to destroy any seized controlled drug where there is a good reason to do so or, otherwise, will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset.

10. Further Information and Advice

- Drugs **FRANK** is a website that provides factual information about drugs, offers advice Including what to do to help someone who is having a bad reaction to drugs. 24 hour helpline: 0300 1236600; www.talktofrank.com
- Smoking NHS Stop smoking services. e.g. **Smokefree** National Helpline (0300 123 1044)
- Alcohol NHS Alcohol support [services](#) e.g. **Drinkline** is a free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.
Helpline: 0300 123 1110 (weekdays 9am to 8pm, weekends 11am to 4pm)

POLICY CONTROL - DRUG, SMOKING AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Status & Review

Statutory policy or document	No
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Version Control

Author	Creation / Revision Date	Version	Status
Head of Senior School (AoN)	February 2026	1.0	Final approved version for publication. New policy. Replaces a) Alcohol and Tobacco policy and b) Drugs and Drug testing policy.
Executive Assistant (TA)	September 2026	2.0	Changed school name to The Newcastle School