



Controlled Drugs Policy (including alcohol, vaping and smoking)

Reviewer: Noll Jenkins

Approver: Kit Perona-Wright

Reviewed: September 2025

Next Review: September 2026

To be read in conjunction with:
Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Privacy and Search Policy

The welfare of our pupils is of paramount importance to The Prep and it is our overarching aim to educate and empower the children in our care to make good choices in all areas of their life and drug education is no exception.

The word “drugs” is used in its widest sense of non-prescribed mood-altering substances to include all drugs whose use is legal within certain limits, including tobacco and alcohol, volatile and other substances, which can be used to alter mood (such as solvents) and all illegal drugs whose use and possession are forbidden by law. The word “misuse” applies to illegal use of drugs and the excessive use of social drugs.

Drugs Education

During Thrive and Science lessons, as well as in other areas of the curriculum we have the following objectives.

- To enable pupils to make informed choices about a healthy lifestyle.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
- To equip pupils with the attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs e.g. decision making, assertiveness training.
- To reinforce school policy on drugs.
- To reinforce information about the legal status of drugs.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or have any concern about the misuse of drugs to seek help.

Alcohol

Alcohol awareness is an important component in Drugs Education within the school and forms part of both the Thrive and Science programmes in Year 8.

Where appropriate, counselling may be offered.

Smoking / Vaping

The Prep is committed to educating pupils about the dangers of vaping and smoking and the topic is covered explicitly with the Biology and Thrive curriculum in Year 6, 7 and 8.

Pupils must not smoke whilst in the School’s care e.g. on trips, or in circumstances where they are identified as part of the school community e.g. on the way to or from school.

The school recognises that persistent offenders may have formed an addiction to smoking both in and out of school. Therefore, the following procedures may be applied:

- Contact the Form Teacher /Head of Wellbeing/Deputy Head (Pastoral) for support.
- Discussion of strategies to help give up.
- Parental involvement, where appropriate.

Each individual case should be decided on its own merits with the aim of educating and encouraging the individual to stop vaping or smoking.

If an individual is found to have sold vaping material or tobacco to other pupils, then this individual will be suspended.

Sanctions

- ☐ If a pupil is discovered possessing, using or dealing any of the following; vapes,cigarettes, alcohol or drugs, he or she will be referred to the Head.
- ☐ The School reserves the right to drug test any pupil at any time. Parents/Guardians will be informed.
- ☐ Once a full investigation has taken place the Head will sanction appropriate pastoral and disciplinary measures. It should be understood that an involvement with an illegal drug will result in expulsion. Smoking and/or drinking may result in suspension or expulsion.
- ☐ The Head will inform the President of Council of any incidents involving illegal drugs.