



Southlands
BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Drug and Substance Policy

September: 2021



DRUG AND SUBSTANCE POLICY

The policy is informed by the views of our students. It is also informed by the DfE and NPCC drugs advice for schools.

Aim of the policy:

To ensure that Southlands British International School provides an environment where all community members are safe and free from harm. This policy alongside the education students receive through PSHCE supports all our students to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs and substances exist.

Key definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, when referring to 'drugs' this encompasses both illegal and legal substances which affect the way the body functions both mentally and or physically. The legal substances which fall under this definition include, but are not limited to; alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, prescription medicines and psychoactive substances.

When referring to 'drug paraphernalia' this encompasses items which support the use or delivery of drugs. Drug paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to; lighters, filters, pipes, rolling papers, e-cigarettes and cannabis grinders.

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or drugs paraphernalia on school premises (or on a trip)
- Possession of drugs, or drug paraphernalia by an individual on school site (or on a trip)
- Use of drugs by an individual on school site (or on a trip)
- Disclosure of information about drug use by students, parents, staff or wider community
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs (inclusive of social media)
- Supply of drugs on or off school site

Drug use of school site (and on school led trips):

Medicines

The School Nurses should be informed by a parent or guardian of any prescription medicine needed to be taken during the school day. Usually the Nurses will monitor and administer this. Where appropriate students may receive authorisation to self-administer prescription medicines if deemed appropriate and parental consent is given in written form.

Alcohol

No alcohol can be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of the school day. Parents of any students in school under the influence of alcohol will be asked to collect their child immediately and be encouraged to seek medical support.

Smoking

In line with Globeducate policy Southlands school campus is a no smoking site. In the interest of health and safety, even those of legal age are not permitted to bring smoking materials to school (inclusive of lighters/ matches). If cigarettes, e-cigarettes or related paraphernalia are

found on site, parents will be notified and items confiscated and disposed of. Smoking (including e-cigarettes) on site will result in a Fixed Term Exclusion of three days.

Illegal drugs and psychoactive substances

No illegal drugs, psychoactive substances and related paraphernalia can be brought on to the school site. Bringing illegal drugs on site is a serious breach of this policy. Seeking to glamourise drug use on site, out of school or via social media networks is also considered a serious breach of policy and actions will defer to the Globeducate Student Exclusion Policy.

Serious breach of policy or persistent breaches:

The school's response to drug related incidents will balance the individual needs of the student and those of the wider school community. Exclusion is not an automatic response for the school to take but will be considered where there is a serious breach of this policy or where allowing the student to stay in Southlands would pose a risk to the education, safety and wellbeing of the student body and wider community. See also the Student Exclusion policy for further information.

Drug misuse outside of school:

Southlands retains the right to support and impose sanctions under the following conditions:

- Drug use/ possession has occurred during a school-organised or related activity
- Drug use/ possession has occurred travelling to or from school
- Drug use/ possession has occurred and the student is in some way identifiable as a student from the school
- Drug use could have repercussions on the normal running of the school
- Drug use/ possession poses a threat to another member of the community
- Drug use/ possession could adversely affect the reputation of the school

Right to search:

The staff of Southlands British International School reserve the right to search the belongings of students if they are suspected to be in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia. Searches will always be conducted with two members of staff present, one of which will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Parents and Guardians will be informed when this has happened.

Where suspected drugs or paraphernalia are found they will be immediately confiscated and locked away securely pending investigation. Once the investigation is complete they will be disposed of in line with local authority guidelines.

Local authorities, such as the police may be informed if any student is found to be in possession, using or dealing illegal substances. In these cases the Parents and Guardians will be informed and the police will take the next appropriate steps.

Confidentiality:

Southlands will seek to work collaboratively with parents and guardians when information is obtained regarding drug possession/ use. On very limited occasions, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be possible (in alignment with Globeducate Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).

All members of staff will follow the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy when dealing with disclosures.

Proactive support:

The school's PSHCE programme provides opportunities to educate students on the effects and legal implications of drug possession and use. It also explores strategies that students can use to recognise and mitigate possible social risks such as peer pressure, bullying and decision making.

The school will use internal expertise and where necessary external resources and providers to provide age appropriate information around Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education.

Reactive support:

Where students show signs of being at risk of, or from, involvement with drugs the school believes in early intervention. Interventions may include:

- Collaboration and action in conjunction with parents
- Support and advice from the School Nurses
- Support and advice from the School Psychologist (Listening Centre)
- PSHCE modification to explore targeted subject areas
- Referral to specialist agencies/ local authorities