



# Nendrum College

COMBER

## DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY



Signed Chair Board of Governors: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Ratified by Board of Governors: \_\_\_\_\_

**Review Date: 10 December 2025**

*Member of staff responsible for policy: Miss V Thompson*

*Date approved by Board of Governors: December 2025*

*Date of next review: June 2027*



## RATIONALE

Nendrum College's Drugs Education Policy complies with its statutory obligation to have a drugs policy. The policy follows the Department of Education Circular 2015/23 and the guidance given by the CCEA in the Northern Ireland Curriculum Drugs Guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland (Revised Edition 2015) (referred to in this Policy as "the CCEA Drugs Guidance").

Nendrum College recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture which exists. Young people are challenged by the changing and sometimes conflicting values of society, which places demands on them to make informed and responsible choices. The College promotes the development of the whole person which encompasses physical, spiritual, mental, emotional, social and environmental health. We believe by equipping students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present we will prepare them for adulthood. Research cites personal inadequacy, a lack of self-esteem and peer pressure as the main reasons for drug misuse among young people. This places a responsibility on the school to 'better prepare young people for adult life.' (Education Reform (NI) Order 1989)

Nendrum College believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our students but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the College's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social well-being. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person. Drugs education is forms an integral part of the College curriculum.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drug education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues. The policy forms an integral part of our existing Learning for Life and Work curriculum.

The College is committed to the active promotion and ultimate achievement of the goal of a safe working environment for all its staff, students and visitors, and consistent with the objective of health protection and promotion within an educational setting.

This policy links with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by taking into consideration the below articles of the UNCRC.

- **Article 19:** Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.
- **Article 33:** The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.
- **Article 36:** Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.



## Our Shared Vision

At Nendrum College Comber, our vision is to develop confident, compassionate, and engaging young people who are prepared to make meaningful contributions to both local and global society. We are committed to providing a nurturing, inclusive, and aspirational learning environment, where every pupil is supported to reach their full potential, in a modern and digital world: academically, socially, spiritually, and emotionally. Through high expectations, mutual respect and a culture of personal growth, we encourage educational excellence. These principles, embedded in our core values of nurture, commitment, and community, aim to foster a strong sense of belonging and responsibility in everyone.

The College is a health promoting school. It teaches areas of health education and strives to protect and improve the health of those within it. The school provides a secure and stimulating environment which encourages students to be health and safety conscious. There is good liaison with parents, outside agencies and specialist services to advise, support and contribute to the promotion of health within the school.

In this context it is important that all staff, students and parents understand that the provision or use of illegal substances in Nendrum College is not tolerated and will result in the most severe consequences for those involved. The school formulates, implements and reviews regularly a range of health-related policies, including its drugs policy.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions are used.

**Controlled substances** are legally classified according to their benefit when used in medical treatment or harm if misused.

**Drug and substance** include any product that, when taken, has the effect of altering the way the body works or how a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday products such as tea and coffee, substances include:

- alcohol, tobacco and tobacco-related products, including nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), and electronic cigarettes;
- over-the-counter medicines such as paracetamol and cough medicine;
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, painkillers, antidepressants, antipsychotics, inhalers and stimulants such as Ritalin;
- volatile substances such as correcting fluids or thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols, glues and petrol;
- controlled drugs such as cannabis, LSD, ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms, heroin and cocaine;
- new psychoactive substances (NPS), formerly known as legal highs\*, which contain one or more chemical substances that produce similar effects to illegal drugs and are sold as incense, salts or plant food and marked 'not for human consumption' to avoid prosecution; and
- other substances such as amyl or butyl nitrite (known as poppers) and unprocessed magic mushrooms.

*\*It should be noted that the term 'Legal highs' is misleading. Public perception is that 'legal' means safe. This is not the case as there is no regulation of these substances and therefore no way of knowing what chemicals they contain.*

**Drug Use** refers to taking a drug; there is no value judgement, although all drug use has an element of risk.

**Drug Misuse** refers to legal, illegal or illicit drug taking or alcohol consumption, which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. Drug misuse is therefore taking drugs, including prescribed drugs and NPS, that cause harm to the individual, their significant others or the wider community.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Role of Board of Governors

The Designated Governor for Drugs is Mrs Sue McBride.

The role of the College Governors is to collaborate with appropriate staff, students and parents or carers to foster and support developing and reviewing its drugs policy. They should also:



- facilitate the consultative process where the school community can respond and contribute to the policy's effectiveness and quality, which the governors should examine and approve before implementing in the school;
- ensure details of the policy are published in the school prospectus and that these are reviewed at least annually and after a drug-related incident; and
- be fully aware of and adequately trained to deal with suspected drug-related incidents, including alcohol and tobacco, tobacco-related products, electronic cigarettes, and their appropriate disciplinary response.

### **Role of Principal**

It is the Principal's responsibility to determine the circumstances of all incidents, but it is the responsibility of the PSNI to investigate any criminal or suspected criminal offence. In any suspected drug-related incident, the Principal should contact the parents or carers of those students involved. The Principal must ensure that in any incident involving a controlled substance there is close liaison with the PSNI and that they are informed. After contacting the PSNI, the Principal will confine his/her responsibilities to:

- the welfare of the student(s) involved in the incident and the other students in the school;
- health and safety during the handling, storage and safe disposal of any drug or drug related paraphernalia, using protective gloves at all times;
- informing the Board of Governors;
- agreeing any appropriate pastoral or disciplinary response;
- reporting the incident to the Education Authority; and
- completing a written report and forwarding a copy to the Board of Governors and the designated officer in the Education Authority.
- ensure that parents are informed in writing in regard to any drugs incidents that occurs within the College.

### **Role of Designated Teacher for Drugs**

The Vice Principal is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. Their role includes:

- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance found in school
- Liaison with the Principal on any drug related incident
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
  - The induction of new staff as appropriate
  - Liaison with the drug education co-ordinator and staff who have responsibility for pastoral care and delivery of the drug education programme
  - Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents
  - Reviewing and updating the school drug policy, when required.

### **Senior Leader for Character & Currency**

The **Senior Leader for Character & Currency** is the member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the drug education programme within the school. Their role includes:

- Ensuring that the programme of study is being taught effectively
- Liaising with all staff on drug education matters, for curriculum purposes
- Organising training for staff as appropriate
- Liaising with outside agencies for curriculum purposes

### **Role of Individual Staff member**

All staff should be familiar with the content of the school's drug policy. If a suspected drug-related incident occurs, the member of staff should:

- notify the principal and the designated teacher for drugs;



- deal with any emergency procedures to ensure the safety of students and staff, if necessary;
- forward any information, substance or paraphernalia received to the designated teacher for drugs,
- complete a brief factual report on the suspected incident, using the Drugs Incident Report Form and forward this to the designated teacher for drugs

### **Role of Parent/Guardian or Carers**

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. It is important that they are fully involved in the education of their child, this is especially so with the drug education programmes. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and discuss drug issues with their child whenever possible.

The Student Planner contains support information in regard to misuse of substances.

Parents/Guardians are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

Parents/Guardians are expected to liaise with Nendrum College if they have concerns in regard to their child. If a parent/guardian suspects or is aware that their child is involved in/with inappropriate use of substances, then they must inform the College immediately.

### **DRUGS EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM**

'The purpose of a Drugs Education Programme, is to provide opportunities for young people to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills which enable them to consider the effects of drugs and other substances on themselves and on others. It enables them to make informed and responsible decisions about the use of such substances within the context of a healthy lifestyle.'(DENI Misuse of Drugs – 1996)

The programme of education is integrated within the College's Pastoral Programme as part of Learning for Life & Work. A fully integrated approach to drug prevention is essential and within the Pastoral programme students are taught about raising self-esteem, self-awareness, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

Drugs education should not be seen as a one-off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling students to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the College promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

In Northern Ireland, the statutory curriculum for young people includes Learning for Life and Work. Learning for Life and Work includes Personal Development, which in the context of this policy includes Personal Health and Understanding. These key elements provide opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances, their effects of health and lifestyle, and the personal, social and economic implications.

### **THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

The school's drug education programme is grounded in the following aims and objectives:

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build students' self-esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform students of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help students to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.
- To help students acquire skills in managing the pressures of the youth culture in which they live.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Drug Education should enable students to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter. Students should be able to:



- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body. · Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

These objectives are closely linked with our school policy on pastoral care and they should not be seen in isolation. In addition to the drugs education provided within the curriculum, the College offers counselling and support for students to explore their own attitudes and values as well as an opportunity to discuss any drug related problems they may have. This is generally done through the Pastoral System within the school and the students are informed that confidentiality cannot always be guaranteed. More specifically, the College through Education Authority provides in-school counselling through a professional counsellor from Family Works Counselling Service.



## **USING EXTERNAL AGENCIES TO DELIVER DRUGS EDUCATION**

The College may use outside agencies to help deliver the drug education programme if the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Principal has given their approval for the use of the outside agency.
- The staff from the agency have been vetted in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding.
- The external agency/individual is trained in Drugs Education.

## **PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING SUSPECTED DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A student suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A student found to be in possession of drugs
- A student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- A student suspected of using drugs on the school premises
- A student found to be using drugs on the school premises
- A student suspected of supplying or handling drugs to/for others
- A student found to be supplying or handling drugs to/for others

## **CHECKLIST OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN MANAGING AN INCIDENT**

**Individual staff members** should:

- assess the situation and decide the action;
- make the situation safe for all students and other members of staff, secure first aid and send for additional staff support, if necessary;
- carefully gather up any drugs and/or associated paraphernalia or evidence and pass all information or evidence to the designated teacher for drugs; and
- write a brief factual report of the incident and forward it to the designated teacher for drugs.

**The Designated Teacher for drugs** should:

- respond to first aider's advice or recommendations;
- inform parents or carers immediately, in the case of an emergency;
- take possession of any substance(s) and associated paraphernalia found;
- inform the Principal;
- take initial responsibility for student(s) involved in the suspected incident; and
- complete a Drugs Incident Report Form and forward it to the principal.

**The Principal** should:

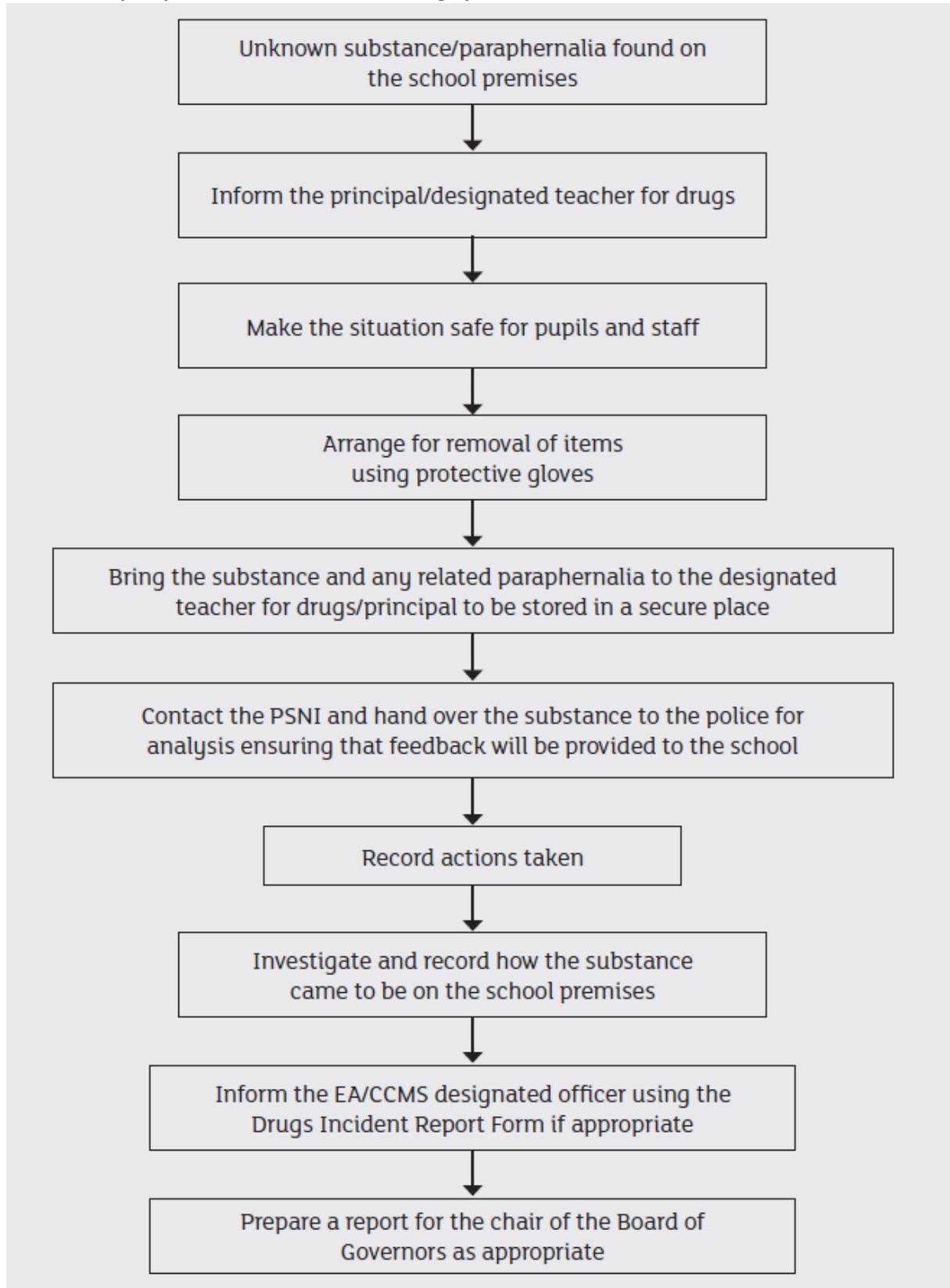
- determine the circumstances surrounding the incident;
- ensure that the following people are informed:
  - parents or carers;
  - designated officer in the local PSNI area;
  - Chair of Board of Governors;
  - Designated officer in Education Authority.



- consult and agree immediate pastoral and disciplinary responses, including counselling services or support;
- forward a copy of the Incident Report Form to the chairperson of the Board of Governors and the designated officer in the Education Authority; and
- review procedures and amend, if necessary.

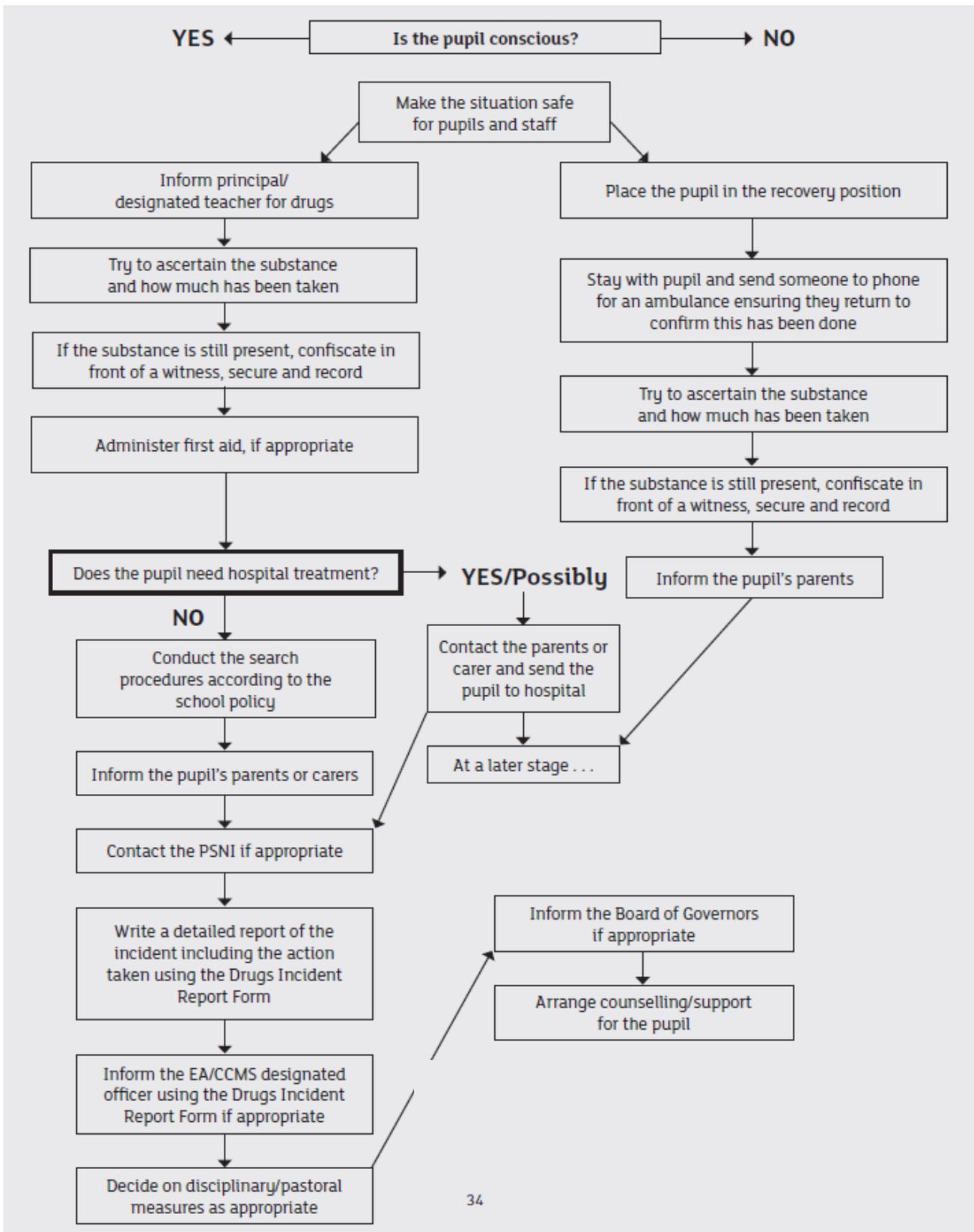
## HANDLING DRUG- RELATED INCIDENTS [CCEA: 2015]

### Unknown substance/paraphernalia found on the College premises



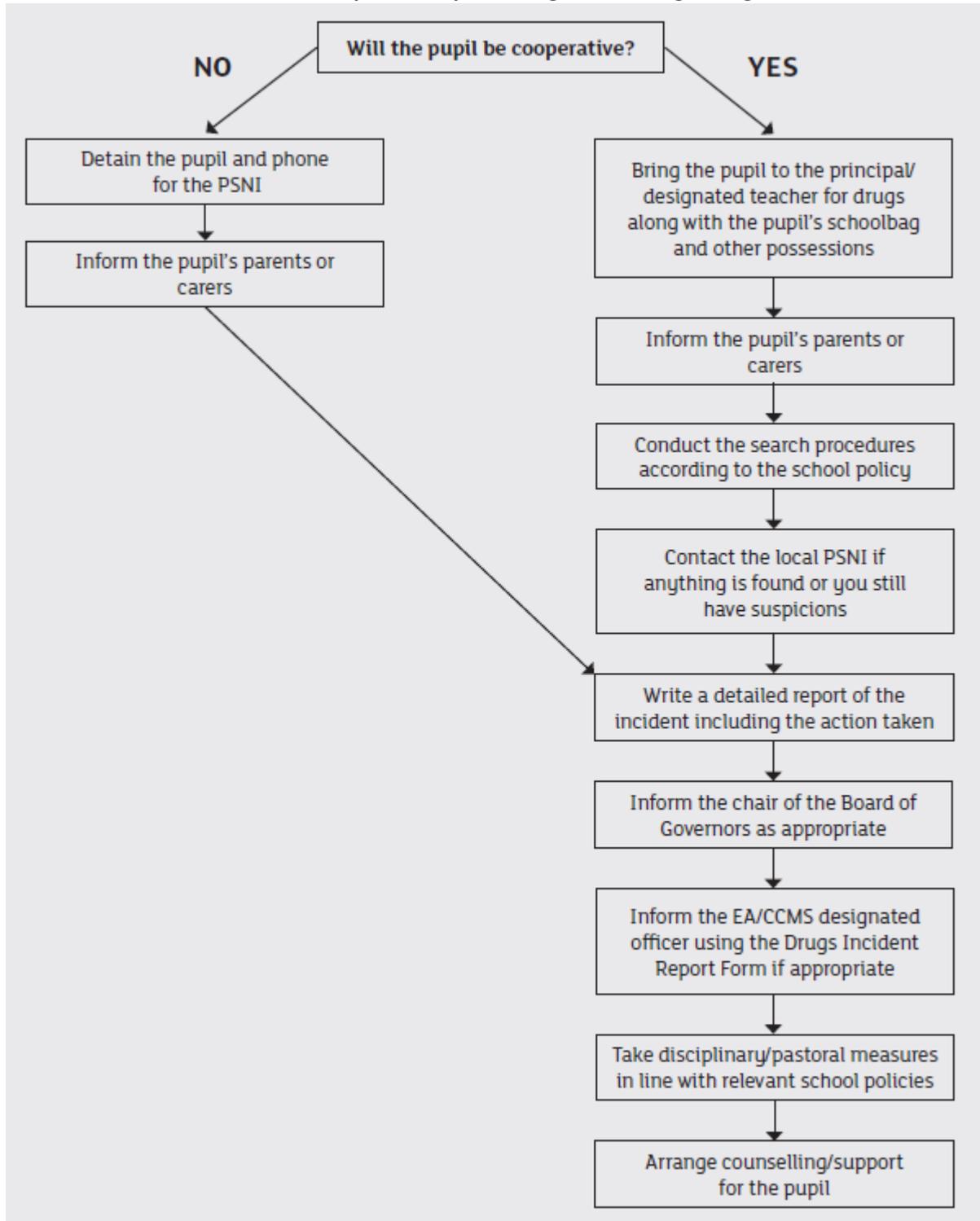
## HANDLING DRUG- RELATED INCIDENTS [CCEA: 2015]

### Student suspected of having taken drugs in College or upon arrival to College



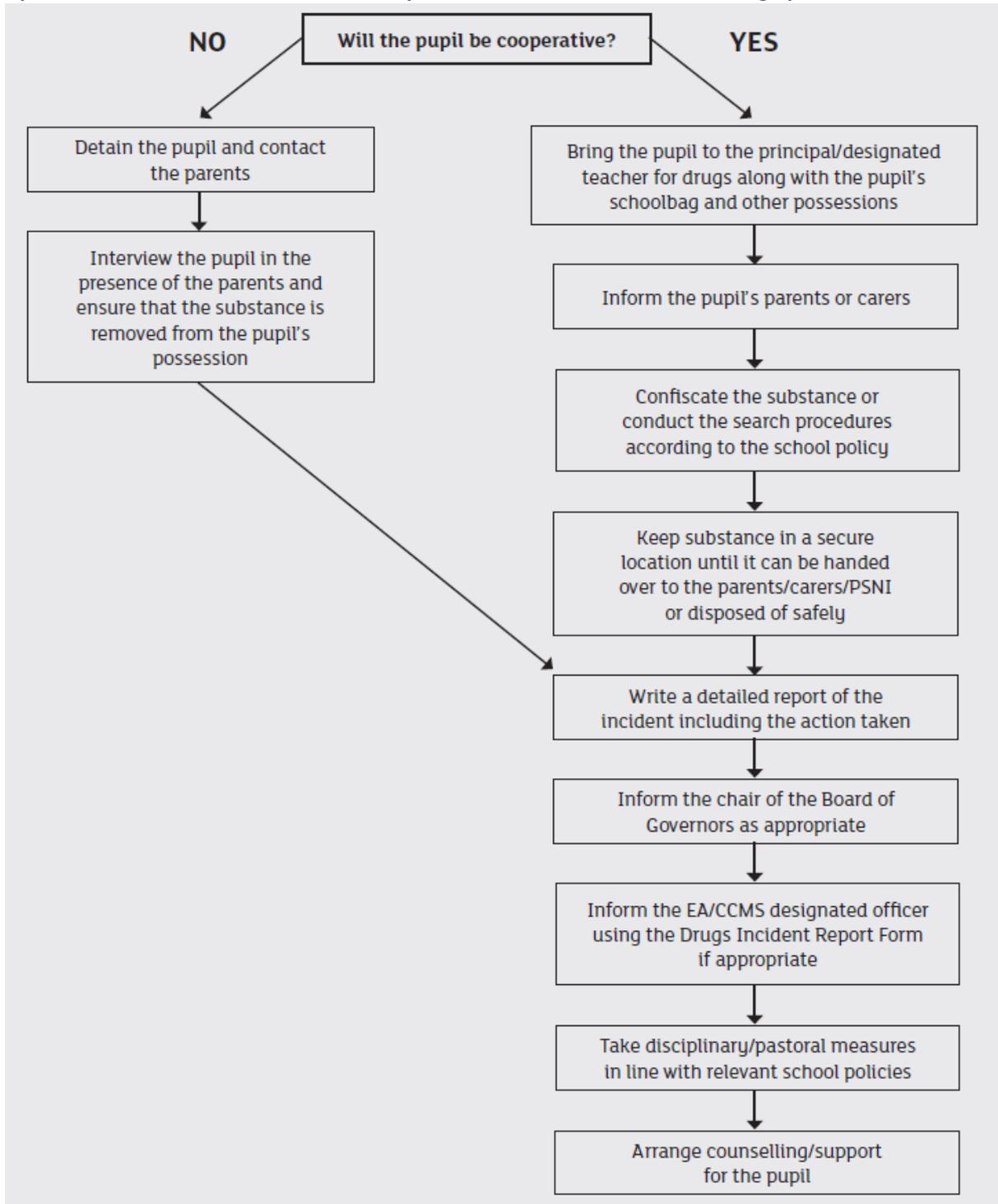
## HANDLING DRUG- RELATED INCIDENTS [CCEA: 2015]

### Student suspected of possessing/distributing a drug



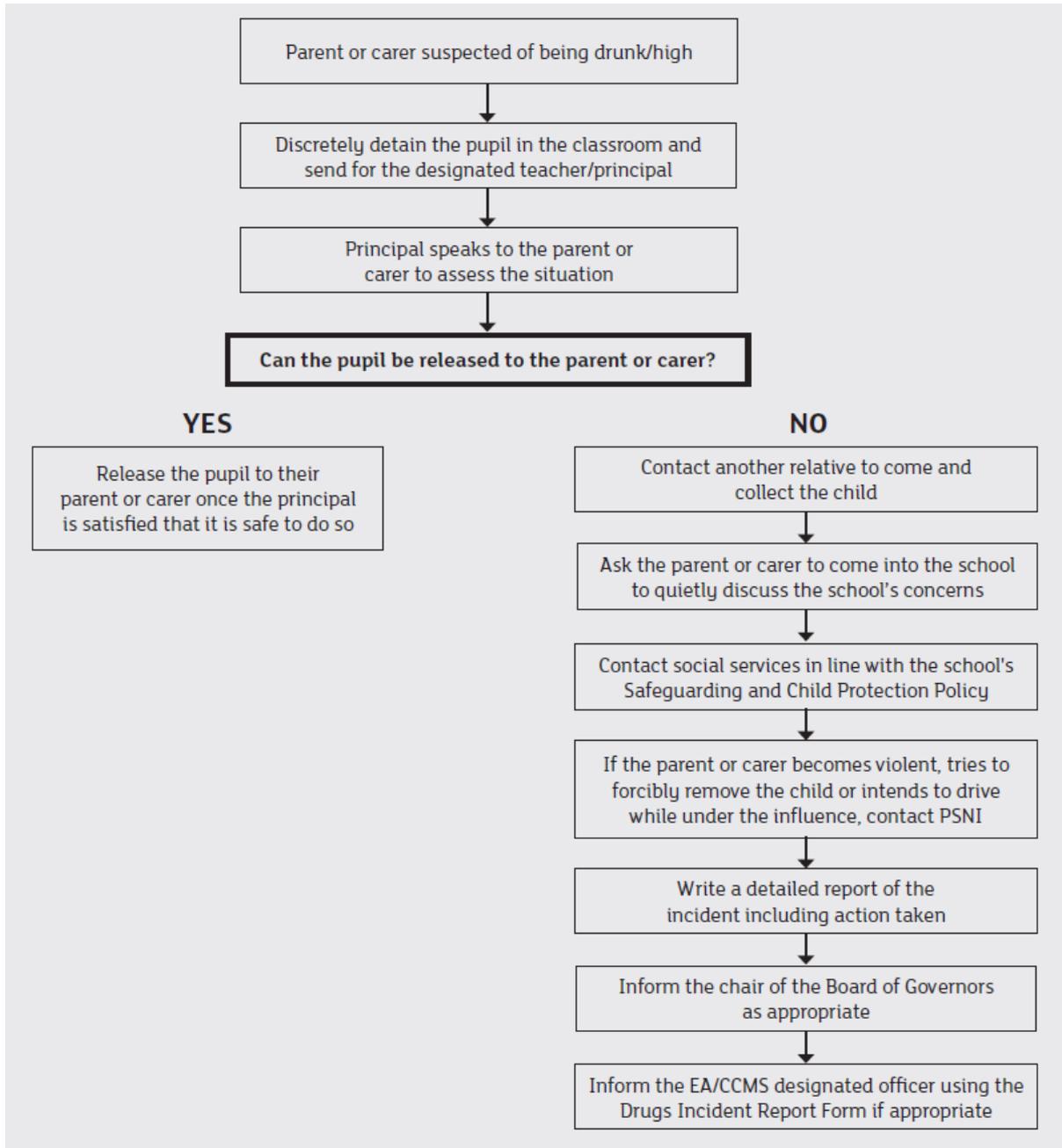
## HANDLING DRUG- RELATED INCIDENTS [CCEA: 2015]

### Student in possession of alcohol or unauthorised prescribed medication on the College premises



## HANDLING DRUG- RELATED INCIDENTS [CCEA: 2015]

A Parent / Carer arrives at the College to collect a child and appears to be under the influence of alcohol or another substance

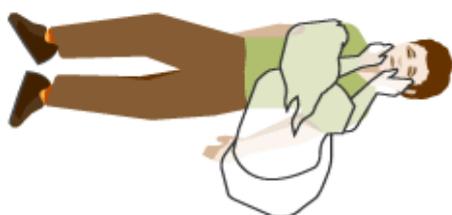


## EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Emergency Action for all members of the school community

In the event of finding someone collapsed and unconscious, summon help from a Qualified First Aider and follow these procedures until help arrives:

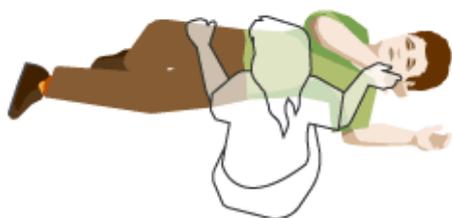
- Check that the mouth is free of obstruction and the airway clear.
- If necessary, pull the tongue forward
- Loosen clothing at the neck-line
- Place the person in the recovery position with the head forward (refer to illustrations of recovery position)
- Check for chest movement and colour of face, lips and tongue; if these begin to turn blue, a person qualified in first aid should resuscitate



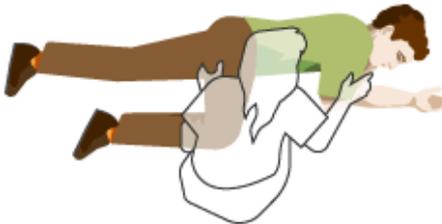
**1** Tilt head backwards, ensure clear airway and straighten head and neck



**2** Place arm at side and other arm across chest with hand against cheek



**3** Bring far knee up to a 90° angle



**4** Roll person over towards you with knee at angle and ensure head is supported

## SEARCHING STUDENTS AND PROPERTY

- Staff may search school property such as lockers.
- Staff can search personal property, including schoolbag, coat or other items (including those contained in school property) **BUT ONLY WITH THE STUDENT'S CONSENT.**
- Ensure you have the student and another adult present as witnesses
- It is acceptable to ask the student to empty pockets and school bags but you cannot make them.
- If a student refuses to consent to a search of their self or of their belongings the school may get parents/ carers and the PSNI involved.
- If staff suspect that a student is in possession of a substance, the College will contact parents and PSNI.

A member of staff should never carry out a physical search of a student, unless there is compelling evidence that the student has committed an offense.

## DETAINING A STUDENT



When managing a suspected drug-related incident the school will require the students concerned to remain in school under the supervision of appropriate members of staff until their parents or carers and the PSNI arrive. If the student refuses to remain, the school cannot detain a student against their will.

However, if a member of staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that the student has in their possession or has taken a controlled substance, they can make a citizen's arrest under Article 26A of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order (PACE) 1989 and/or contact the PSNI immediately.

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

For the purpose of this policy, an emergency is considered to be either:

- A situation in which a student or staff is in danger: or
- A sequence of events which requires urgent attention.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The spirit of confidentiality is of primary importance to those who work professionally with young people in a trusting and secure environment. However, the legal requirements of drug legislation will mean that in certain circumstances there will be a change in the convention of confidentiality; **any criminal activity around drugs disclosed must be passed onto the Designated Teacher, PSNI and Education Authority, South Eastern Region.**

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order (1995) makes it clear that the welfare of the young person is paramount and therefore confidentiality as much as possible will be maintained. The details of the drug related incident will be shared on a need to know basis in the interests of the child. Details of the incident may be shared to minimise risk for others and inform future practice however the details of the individual/s will be protected as much as possible.

#### **A Child In Need**

Where a student discloses to a staff member that they are taking illegal drugs, or a parent/guardian informs the school that their child is involved in risk taking involving drugs, the staff member cannot offer a guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of the drug misuse. However, the College will constructively respond with the necessary support to enable that student to facilitate change in their pattern of behaviour by establishing a PEP in partnership with parents/guardians and outside agencies.

### **DISCIPLINARY MEASURES IN RELATION TO DRUG INCIDENTS**

The College will deal with each case as it arises, following the school's Drugs Education Policy, EA guidance and legal requirements. Procedures will be carried out in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy and the College Charter.

#### **SERIOUS SANCTIONS**

All disciplinary matters are fully investigated by Nendrum College and an appropriate response will be considered in line with the Drugs Education Policy and CCEA Drugs Guidance.

The Principal and Board of Governors will retain responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents following full investigation. The College will make a co-ordinated and appropriate response to any drug-related incident, taking into consideration the health and safety of students and staff as the main priority.

To safeguard the safety and well-being of our students and staff, the College will respond to Drug related incidents as outlined below.

- Any student that brings illegal drugs to school will be suspended, and face possible expulsion. Parents/carers and PSNI will be contacted.
- Any student who has brought in illegal drugs to school and supplied them to others will be suspended, and face possible expulsion. Parents/carers and PSNI will be contacted.
- Any student participating in taking an illegal drug which has been given to them by another student will be suspended and may be expelled pending a full investigation. Parents/carers and PSNI will be contacted.
- Any student in possession of or using an e-cigarette / vape on their way to or on the College grounds will be suspended. Parents/carers and PSNI will be contacted. Associated paraphernalia will be confiscated and stored securely; PSNI advice will be followed.



- Students will be suspended if they smoke cigarettes in school. Parents/carers will be contacted.
- E-cigarettes, vapes and / or other tobacco/ nicotine products confiscated from pupils may be collected by a parent / guardian on the contact list within one week of the confiscation. After this time, the items will be disposed of by the school.
- Any student that brings alcohol into school or is under the influence of alcohol will be suspended and may be expelled pending full investigation.

In cases of repeated offences, additional sanctions may be considered.

In cases where the Board of Governors are considering a serious sanction to be applied to a student, in line with the CCEA Drugs Guidance, the College will implement a repertoire of responses other than expulsion, if exceptional circumstances are clearly made evident.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to present, to the Board of Governors, any exceptional circumstances at the time of the behaviour, that may influence their decision

### **STAFF USE OF ALCOHOL AND SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES**

Nendrum College is a smoke-free premises and no visitor or employee may smoke or make use of electronic cigarettes within the College grounds. For further guidance please refer to DE Circular 2014/25 – Encouraging a Smoke-Free and E-Cigarette Free Environment in Schools and Youth Organisations.

The school premises are an alcohol free zone. During regular working days, the school does not allow any alcohol to be consumed on school premises. This applies to visitors, staff and students. Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the Principal directly.

### **PROVISION OF COUNSELLING SERVICES IN THE SCHOOL**

All students and their families who have been involved in a drug related incident will be offered an opportunity to engage with outside agencies for support, irrespective of the College's response to the incident.

### **LINKS THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE**

The College endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents. The College has developed good working relationships with the local PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team. This helps to ensure that if a drug related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

### **DEALING WITH THE MEDIA**

If the school receives an enquiry from the media, the caller should be referred only to the Principal. When responding to the media, the privacy of the student will be respected. The Principal may liaise with PSNI prior to providing a statement. The statement will be short, factual and without elaboration. The concluding statement should be positive and reassuring.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATING**

The Drugs Education Policy is reviewed every two years to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drug use. The programmes of study for drug education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented. All staff are made aware of the Drugs Education Policy and procedures as part of their in service training in August. New members of staff are also instructed as part of their induction training. First Aiders are clearly identified in the College, and a defibrillator is available in reception. The full policy is available to parents if they request it. The policy can also be accessed from the College website.



## **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX 1 - SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DRUG USE**

**APPENDIX 2 - PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBSTANCES**



## APPENDIX 1

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DRUG USE

Recognising current drug use is a major issue for many professionals who work with young people. There is also the issue of identifying those young people who may be at increased risk of using drugs. Below are specific physical and behavioural signs that may be associated with drug use. Some of these, however, can indicate the onset of adolescence.

#### PHYSICAL SIGNS

These can differ depending on the type of drug taken, for example a stimulant or hallucinogen. Below are some of the physical signs related to drugs used illicitly in Northern Ireland.

##### Solvents

Solvents include glues, butane gas refills, aerosols, typewriting correcting fluids and thinners. Signs to look out for include:

- usual signs of intoxication – unco-ordinated movement or slurred speech;
- possible odour on clothes and breath;
- redness around the mouth and nose, if using glue;
- a cough; and
- possible stains on clothing, depending on type of solvent used.

##### Cannabis

Cannabis can have the effect of a depressant or mild hallucinogen, depending on the amount taken and situational factors. The effects of taking cannabis include:

- a tendency to laugh easily;
- becoming talkative;
- relaxed behaviour;
- reddening of the eyes; and
- hunger.
- If the drug is smoked, it produces a distinctive sweet smell.

##### Ecstasy

Ecstasy is sometimes referred to as a hallucinogenic stimulant. Its effects will therefore include those listed for stimulants. It can also cause:

- increased temperature;
- excessive sweating;
- a very dry mouth and throat;
- jerky, unco-ordinated movements;
- clenched jaws;
- occasional nausea, when first used; and
- fatigue after use, but also possibly some anxiety, depression and muscle pain.

##### Stimulants (amphetamines (speed), butyl nitrite (poppers) or cocaine)

The effects can result in:

- increased pulse rate;
- increased blood pressure;
- agitation;
- talkativeness or lack of coherent speech;



- dilated pupils;
- loss of appetite;
- damage to nasal passages;
- increased tendency to go to the toilet;
- mouth ulcers; and
- fatigue after use.

### **Hallucinogens** (LSD, magic mushrooms)

Effects can vary depending on nature of the experience. These include:

- relaxed behaviour;
- agitated behaviour;
- dilation of pupils; and
- unco-ordinated movements.

### **Heroin**

Heroin acts as a depressant. The effects of taking heroin include:

- decrease in breathing and heart rate;
- suppression of cough reflex;
- increase in size of certain blood vessels;
- itchy skin;
- runny nose;
- decreasing body temperature; and
- sweating.

### **New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)** (formerly known as Legal Highs)

New Psychoactive Substances are substances which have been designed to mimic or copy the effects of illegal drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy, cannabis, LSD and benzodiazepines (Benzos). The effects of taking Legal Highs include:

- reduced inhibitions;
- excited or paranoid states;
- confusion leading to aggression;
- intense comedowns which impact on mental health;
- sudden increases in body temperature and heart rate;
- drowsiness;
- coma seizures; and
- death

### **BEHAVIOURAL SIGNS**

Drug use can often cause behavioural changes. These changes can be difficult to recognise. Some prior knowledge of the person may be required to make an accurate evaluation of behaviour. The changes can be obvious or very subtle and may be due to some other reason, unconnected with drug use. Signs can include:

- efforts to hide drug use through lying, evasiveness and secretive behaviour;
- unsatisfactory reasons for unexpected absences or broken promises;
- changes in friendships;



- changes in priorities, including less concern with school work, less care of personal appearance, non-attendance at extra-curricular activities;
- efforts to get money for drug use, ranging from saving dinner or allowance money, borrowing from friends or relatives or selling own possessions to stealing from friends or home or involvement in petty crime; and
- secretive telephone calls.

Other possible signs include:

- being very knowledgeable about drugs and the local drug scene;
- a defensive attitude towards drugs and drug taking;
- unusual outbreaks of temper;
- absence from or poor performance at school or work experience on days following nights out in nightclubs or bars; and
- a pattern of absences on a certain day.

These signs may often only become apparent in students who are using drugs on a regular basis. Such signs can be difficult to see in the experimental or casual drug user.



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBSTANCES**

#### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ALCOHOL MISUSE**

The school premises are an alcohol free zone. The school does not allow any alcohol to be brought onto or consumed in school premises. This applies to visitors, staff and students. Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the Principal directly. Students will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING TOBACCO MISUSE**

The school is a restricted environment with no one being permitted to smoke on the school premises. Adults breaking this rule will be advised by other members of staff and if necessary reported to the Principal. Students breaking this rule will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

#### **THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES**

At the start of the school year, parents must complete a medical form indicating any medical illness their child has. This information will be dealt with by their Head of Year in conjunction with Office staff. Parents are advised that the school will not, as a matter of course administer other medicine to a student. In exceptional circumstances eg chronic illness or emergency, medicine may be administered through a Qualified First Aider.

If a student needs to bring a prescribed medicine into school, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- A letter from the parent explaining the nature of the illness and the dosage required must be sent with the student
- The student must immediately give the medicine to the Office
- The Office must store the medicine in a secure space and ensure that only the student for whom the medicine is prescribed, takes the medicine.

#### **THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENTS**

Students are not permitted to bring solvents or aerosols into school. This includes tippex fluid and pens, tippex thinners, glue, permanent marker pens and spray deodorants. Students are permitted to bring felt tip pens to school. All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and usage of solvents in their classroom. Where possible they should be locked away when not in use. This includes white board markers, glues and paints. The cleaners and caretakers should also ensure that their stores are locked when not in use and that solvents are held in a secure place.