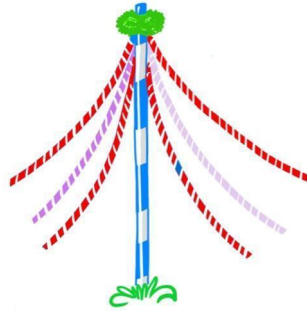


# Maypole School



## DRUG & ALCOHOL – SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

**2026-2027**

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|-------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------|
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# 1.INTRODUCTION

Maypole School is committed to providing a healthy and safe working environment for staff and pupils.

There are two elements to this policy: the reasonable steps that will be taken to reduce or eliminate the risk of injuries or incidents occurring due to a member of staff's alcohol or drug/substance abuse; the reasonable steps that will be taken to support pupils who arrive at school under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or are struggling with drug or alcohol abuse.

This policy sets out the main principles underpinning the management of alcohol and drug/substance abuse and provides guidance for managers in dealing with individual staff affected by alcohol or drug/substance abuse and the protocol to follow for pupils who arrive at school under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## 2. SCOPE

The policy applies to all employees, governors, contractors, volunteers and visitors who are working or attending the school premises and pupils.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

There is a clear link between the use of alcohol and drugs/substances and reduced safety and performance. The best known example is of the effects of alcohol on driving performance. Alcohol and drug/substance dependency are recognised as illnesses that can be successfully treated, particularly if diagnosed at an early stage. Hence, the aims of the policy are as follows:

- To ensure that a member of staff's use of alcohol or drugs/substances does not affect the health and safety of that individual, their co-workers, or others with whom they come into contact in the course of their work
- To ensure that a member of staff's use of alcohol or drugs/substances does not affect the efficient and effective operation of the School's activities
- To set out the School's procedures and guidelines on alcohol and drug/substance abuse
- To provide a mechanism for staff with an alcohol or drug/substance abuse problem to seek help in confidence
- To outline under this procedure the responsibilities of the member of staff and Maypole School
- To provide information on the symptoms and effects of alcohol, drugs and substance misuse and external sources of help.

The School promotes a culture of trust and encourages staff with an alcohol or drug/substance misuse problem to inform their line manager and seek their support. The School will endeavour to ensure that advice and support are made available to any member of staff who believes they have a problem with alcohol or drug/substance misuse. Any member of staff who seeks the assistance of the School in finding treatment for an alcohol or drug/substance problem has the School's assurance of confidentiality and support to help resolve it. Early identification and treatment is essential if problems for the member of staff and the School are to be avoided.

## 4. RULES ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS/SUBSTANCES AT WORK

It is the School's policy that staff have a safe and healthy environment in which to work, free from the effects of alcohol or drugs/substances. For this reason, the following rules will apply:

- **There are no circumstances ever where it is permissible to drink alcohol or take drugs/illegal substances whilst on the school premises**
- Staff are responsible for ensuring they are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs/illegal substances whilst at work or driving
- Staff shall not attend or attempt to work when unfit\* because of the effects of alcohol or drugs/substances\*\*
- No one shall be in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs\*\*\* whilst on the school premises

\* Individuals have a responsibility to determine their own fitness for work; however, whether a member of staff is fit for work is ultimately a matter for the opinion of management. The manager might have sufficient evidence of intoxication (e.g. from observation) to form a reasonable belief

\*\* Prescribed medication may sometimes cause side effects such as drowsiness which may affect performance at work

\*\*\* Illegal drugs include but are not limited to heroin, cannabis/marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines and various other mood or performance altering substances

Possession of or dealing in illegal drugs on school premises will be dealt with as a potentially criminal act and will be reported to the police by the Principal. The School will consider application of the Disciplinary Procedure in such circumstances in the context of a criminal investigation.

If in the opinion of the line manager a member of staff is not fit for work due to the effects of alcohol or drugs/substances, steps should be taken to ensure the individual is safely sent home and any meetings should be postponed until the following day where practicable.

Managers should be aware that there may be ill-health issues for a member of staff who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs/substances at work, and this should be taken into account during an investigation.

## 5. DRIVING AT WORK

Members of staff prescribed medication which may affect their fitness to drive, operate machinery or potentially compromise the safety of themselves or others in any aspect of their work have a responsibility to declare this to their line manager and to refrain from such activities if so affected. An example may be a member of staff operating kitchen, gardening or DT equipment suffering from drowsiness caused by strong pain relief medication.

Members of staff who have a recognised or suspected alcohol or drug/substance problem under investigation or treatment should not perform work with machinery of any sort or drive on school business.

Members of staff who complete a course of detoxification and rehabilitation successfully may be able to return to work which is considered safety-critical\* or includes driving. In most cases, staff returning to such work will be required to undergo a period of monitoring. The line manager may make a decision regarding fitness to return to such work based on specialist advice from

Occupational Health. In some cases, this decision could involve other external agencies such as the GP, Addiction Advisor or Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

\* The definition of what constitutes safety critical work is a management decision

## **6. ACTION UNDER THE MANAGING ILL HEALTH/SICKNESS ABSENCE, DISCIPLINARY AND/OR CAPABILITY PROCEDURES**

If the work performance of a member of staff is adversely affected by alcohol or drug/substance use, this will be dealt with under the relevant school procedure. This may be the Managing ill-health and sickness absence procedure, the Disciplinary Procedure and/or the Capability Procedure depending on the nature of the problem. Any of these procedures may be suspended for a reasonable period of time, pending investigation of whether the member of staff has a medical problem amenable to treatment and, if so, for that treatment to be undertaken. Whether one of these procedures is suspended or not will depend on the following factors:

- The nature of the problem
- The evidence that the member of staff has a health-related problem
- The member of staff's acknowledgement of the problem and willingness to be treated

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Individual members of staff**

All staff have a duty to take care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions at work.

### **The role of line managers**

Line managers are directly responsible for the health, safety and welfare of members of staff. They are the first point of contact and best placed to understand and support the needs of a member of staff who has an alcohol or drug/substance misuse condition. They can offer advice and support under this Procedure and may make referral arrangements for advice from Occupational Health. However, managers must balance their responsibility for the affected member of staff with their responsibility to the school, pupils, to other members of staff and to others, ensuring a safe and healthy working environment.

Line managers must **always** report concerns regarding members of staff who they suspect of either being under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst at work, or have an alcohol or drug use problem, to a member of the executive leadership team.

### **The role of executive leaders**

Members of the executive leadership team can provide advice and support to managers and staff about Maypole School Policies and Procedures and encourage co-operation to achieve referral, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery.

### **The role of occupational health**

Occupational Health provides information and advice to all parties regarding work-related alcohol and drug/substance misuse. This may include advice regarding referral and rehabilitation back to work. Occupational Health will provide advice and information in confidence to any member of staff who has a problem. Occupational Health will provide names of outside agencies and others

who can provide expert professional assistance. Staff should note that their own GP can also provide such assistance, if preferred.

All medical information about a member of staff is confidential and can only be disclosed to the employer with the consent of the member of staff. However, the employer will need to understand the nature and severity of the situation in order to decide and provide suitable support arrangements. An element of cooperation is necessary in a situation that requires trust between employer and employee. Occupational Health will ensure they disclose only such information as is necessary for this purpose and managers are also bound by confidentiality to inform others only on a need-to-know basis.

### **The role of all staff with concerns about a colleague**

Staff who are concerned that a colleague is exhibiting symptoms of an alcohol or drug/substance-related problem should notify their Head of School/Deputy Head of School. It is particularly important that the appropriate manager is advised of these problems where symptoms start to affect work or working relationships or present a safety hazard or reputational risk.

Such notification will be handled in a confidential and sensitive manner.

## **8. SUPPORTING PUPILS**

There may be occasions where it is suspected that a pupil is intoxicated by alcohol or drugs/substances when they arrive at school.

The general rule is that when this is the case, the pupil is taken home by staff, sent home in the LA transport or collected by the parent/carer. The parent/carer must always be contacted to inform them that their child will need to be sent home and to ensure that there will be someone at home when their child arrives.

However, it is essential that the wellbeing of the pupil is at the centre of any decision that is taken. Key things to consider are:

- If it is safe for the pupil to travel
- If the child is in need of medical attention

If there is any concern regarding the pupil's wellbeing/medical condition, then emergency services should be called.

The Head of School should liaise with the family, and a decision will be made if the situation requires a referral to MASH or other external agencies. The incident should be written up on CPOMS.

Where it is believed that a pupil is struggling with a dependency on alcohol/drug/substance misuse, discussions should be held in the first instance with the pupil's family. Various avenues of support should be explored and where appropriate a MASH referral and or a TAF meeting be set up to support the pupil and the family.