



MOORFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL DRUG POLICY

**(Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vapes:
Policy and Protocols for use and possession of
these substances in school)**

Term Of Staff Review:	Replaces the Drug Education Policy for Pupils and Parents and the Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy
Reviewed & Approved By Governing Body:	
Term of Next Review:	Autumn 2026

Inspiring Creative Learners for Exciting Futures

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Policy Context

All schools have a responsibility to identify and act upon potential safeguarding issues in relation to children and young people. This includes the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vapes amongst pupils accessing education; whether or not these substances are possessed or used on school premises.

Young people frequently experiment with substances but often have little knowledge or awareness of the effects and harms and are naïve to the risks to themselves or others. Schools are ideally placed to identify pupils who may be experimenting with substances and this policy is designed to support schools in taking appropriate action in respect of safety, education, and safeguarding.

Policy Development

This Policy was developed by specialist services within Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Stockport Family and Stockport High Schools.

Policy Aims & Objectives

This Policy aims to support schools in the identification of and response to incidents of drug, alcohol, tobacco and vape use on school premises. The policy also aims to:

- Provide a standardised framework for schools to use in order to effectively respond to the usage or possession of illicit substances, alcohol and vapes on school premises.
- To support schools in providing education to pupils about the dangers and harms associated with underage alcohol use and use of legal and illegal drugs, tobacco and vapes
- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vapes for all staff, pupils, governors, parents / carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the Drug & Alcohol Education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vapes on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs specifically complements the overall approach to Drug Education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school Drug Education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

This Policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy applies to all school staff and pupils, parents/carers, governors, and partner agencies working with schools.

1. Definitions & Terminology

Drugs can be broadly categorised as follows:

Illicit drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act

Illegal drugs, also known as Controlled Drugs, are classified according to the harm they potentially do to individuals and the wider community. These substances fall into Class A (greatest harm, including heroin and cocaine), Class B (including cannabis and amphetamine) and Class C (including Benzodiazepines and Steroids). Possession and sale of these substances is classified as an offence under the law and can be punishable by fines or prison sentences.

Drugs Controlled by the Medicines Act

Many substances can only be obtained with a prescription from a medical professional, for example anti-depressants, sleeping tablets, strong painkillers, and anxiety medications. Many of these substances become, without a prescription, controlled substances that fall under the Misuse of Drugs Act (e.g., higher strength codeine without a prescription becomes a Class B drug under the law).

Over the Counter Medications

It is possible to obtain a number of substances which can induce mild psychoactive or physiological effects from pharmacies over the counter. These substances are classed as medicines and are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, although their sale is age restricted. Examples are low strength Codeine based medications such as Co-codamol, cough/cold remedies such as Promethazine, sleep remedies such as Nytol and decongestants containing Pseudoephedrine.

Substances controlled by the Psychoactive Substances Act

The Psychoactive Substances Act covers all substances which have a psychoactive effect on the body. It is not an offence to possess these substances, but supply is illegal. This legislation primarily covers the substances which were, prior to 2016, available for legal sale and referred to as "Legal Highs". The legislation was brought in with an aim to prevent harm from emerging substances which were technically exempt from legislation as their chemical structure was not recognised under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Common examples of former "Legal Highs" which are now covered by law include Spice, Black Mamba, MCAT/Mephedrone and Ethylphenidate.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Vapes

The sale of alcohol, tobacco and vapes is age restricted - young people under the age of 18 cannot legally buy alcohol, tobacco or vapes. Possession or use of these by young people should be discouraged and not permitted in schools. Alcohol, tobacco and vapes are included within the scope of this policy.

There is also a substantial market in illicit, unregulated vapes which do not comply with Tobacco and Related Products regulations. Where vapes contain illegal substances, it is appropriate to consider management under the drug policy.

1.1 New & Emerging Trends

It is important to recognise that the above list of substances is not exhaustive as new drugs and psychoactive chemicals are being identified all the time. Examples include Lean, which is a cough mixture containing Dextromethorphan, Codeine and fizzy drinks, producing a dissociative sedative effect. Similarly, "edibles" are becoming more widespread amongst young people. This term refers to commercially available sweets such as Skittles or Nerds which have been mixed with THC (cannabis) or Spice like chemicals and are eaten. Mosaic offer regular training sessions, free for buyback participating schools, for school staff on emerging trends and will issue updates and alerts once a substance or dangerous practice is identified in the local area.

It is important to note that some children will be taking medication prescribed by a doctor for a diagnosed medical condition. For guidance around this please refer to the school Managing Medical Needs Policy.

1.2 Named Member of Staff with Responsibility for Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vapes response

All schools should have a named individual staff member, ideally a senior member of the staff team, who has overall responsibility for substance related concerns and issues. However, schools must also ensure that all members of staff are aware of this policy and their duty to respond and take appropriate action in respect of substances. **The named person is Paul Anderson, Headteacher.**

2. School Based Education around Substances

2.1 Education & Curriculum

Schools have a responsibility to provide sensitive, age-appropriate drug education, (including tobacco and alcohol) which is inclusive to all students.

The statutory guidance "Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education" clearly states that schools must deliver drug education as part of the health education component, of which there is no right to withdraw.

Schools should plan drug education which has relevance for all pupils, and which considers the needs of their school community.

Teachers need to be sensitive to the fact that pupils may have varying attitudes towards drugs which are influenced by their cultural and religious backgrounds and their life experiences, values and beliefs.

2.2 Education for Parents & Carers

It is important that schools are open with parents and carers about the nature and content of substance related education that is being provided to students. This helps to ensure that appropriate and relevant conversations which supplement the school's education can take place in the home, further reinforcing key messages to young people. Mosaic's Drug and Alcohol Service can provide support and advice sessions to parents and carers on signs and symptoms of drug and alcohol use, with the aim of helping them to understand their child's experience of these substances.

2.3 Education for Staff

It is important that staff who are working in schools are appropriately trained in at least basic drug & alcohol awareness and keep themselves up to date with current trends and emerging substances used amongst young people in Stockport. This allows staff within schools to identify and respond to substance use in an appropriate and safe way, promoting the health and wellbeing of students. Schools should ensure that all staff are provided with mandatory training around these issues, and that this is reviewed regularly throughout each academic year.

In addition to ensuring that all staff to have received at least basic drug and alcohol education, schools must nominate at least one senior member of staff who will manage and oversee significant incidents, including drugs being found on school property, and students and/or parents or carers attending under the influence. All school staff and students should know which members of staff are responsible for this and how to contact them.

2.4 Third Parties Providing Drug & Alcohol Education in Schools

It is important that any other provider or individual who is brought into a school for the purposes of providing education around substances is fully aware of the correct and appropriate approach to take with young people. It is entirely the responsibility of the school to ensure this is the case prior to any work being carried out.

Particular care should be taken to ensure that accurate messages are given to school children about substances, and schools must ensure that the provider is appropriately trained and qualified to deliver these. They should also be aware of good practice that recommends the avoidance of shocking images and inappropriate descriptions of drug use and have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the session and have seen and understood the school's drug education policy.

Visitors should have been briefed on any sensitivities that there may be in the student group. Teachers should negotiate the content of the session which is linked to the broader drug education and PSHE delivered by the school and relevant to the identified needs of the pupils. Visitors should be made aware by the teacher of the school's protocols for dealing with any disclosures or distress shown by pupils during the session.

3. Support for Schools, Students and Parents & Carers around drugs and alcohol

All schools should be aware of the Mosaic Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service. Mosaic are commissioned in Stockport to provide advice, support and treatment for all young people who are affected by substance misuse.

Mosaic have a standard offer to all High Schools in the Stockport area. If a student is identified as having issues with substance misuse or vulnerable to issues with substance misuse, schools can refer direct to Mosaic via a dedicated referral form and pathway. A Mosaic worker will rapidly respond to the referral and arrange to see the student at a location convenient to them, including within the school if this is requested.

Mosaic can also provide, as part of buyback, regular bespoke drop-down days, classroom-based sessions and assemblies, with the aim of educating and reaching young people in order to protect them from harm. Bespoke training is on offer to school staff, parents and carers and governors of schools participating in buyback, and Mosaic will work with schools to coproduce the content of sessions in response to emerging trends and concerns. Mosaic can also support schools in the completion and initiation of Early Help Assessments, acting as Lead Professional where appropriate for families who are vulnerable to harms from substance use.

Mosaic can also consult on substance related issues via the Treatment Team. Any issues arising which schools are uncertain about can be raised with Mosaic and advice and support provided by email which is aimed to provide schools with enough information to take action in relation to substance related concerns. A call back based duty system is available for professionals, including school staff, for guidance over the telephone if required.

Young people who are open to Mosaic's services will also have access to support, advice and signposting around emotional wellbeing, SRE related issues, the Youth Offending Service, Complex Safeguarding and Early Help.

3.1 Children of Substance Misusing Parents/Carers

Where children are identified as being affected by the alcohol or drug use of a parent or carer, Mosaic provides 1:1 support and intervention for the child, helping them to understand and express their feelings around this. To be referred, children must be mature enough to be aware of their parent/ caregiver's substance use and be affected by it in some way. This work can be carried out in schools, community locations or (where appropriate) the family home.

3.2 Parent/Carer Service

This service supports parents, grandparents and any other caregiver of young people who use drugs or alcohol and aims to provide guidance and support to enable them to understand how best to manage their emotions and feelings and provide effective help for their child.

3.3 Family Impact Programme

This is a structured programme of support which helps substance misusing parents and carers to understand the impact of their drinking or drug use on their child(ren).

All Stockport Schools have access to the support provided by the family team, and if any member of school staff has any queries, concerns or wishes to make a referral they should dial 0161 218 1100 to speak with the Mosaic Team duty worker.

4 Responding to Drug and Alcohol Related Incidents

A Drug or Alcohol Related Incident may fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Drugs or drugs paraphernalia or alcohol found on school premises;
- Students in possession of unauthorised drugs or alcohol;
- Students supplying unauthorised drugs or alcohol;
- Students under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- Disclosure of drug or alcohol use;
- Information suggesting student(s) involved in substance misuse
- Illegal sale/supply of drugs or alcohol in the school vicinity.

Schools should designate responsibility for the management of drug or alcohol incidents to a senior member of staff. All staff should be made fully aware of the procedures for managing incidents, including who they should inform and who has authority regarding issues such as searching school property and involving the police.

Schools may already have agreed protocols for good practice with the local police and disposal of suspected illegal drugs, and schools should follow these.

It is important that there is a co-ordinated whole school approach to any drug related incidents in school. Schools should ensure that pupils have access to and knowledge of up-to- date information on sources of help and support.

If the pupil is under the influence of drugs and alcohol on school premises the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. (see guidance sheet 5).

A referral should be made to Mosaic School Based Drugs Service. If your school does not have a named Mosaic Drug & Alcohol Link Worker or if your school does not buy back, please contact 0161 218 1100 or mosaic@stockport.gov.uk

4.1 Involvement & of Parents / Carers

Parents and carers must be involved at the earliest possible opportunity should a substance related incident arise at the school and should be kept informed of any actions taken as a result. Parents and carers should similarly be involved in any plan produced for their child as a result of a substance related incident.

Parents and carers should be involved in the school's development of their own drug education programmes and informed of plans for the development and implementation of lessons and sessions focusing on this education. Similarly, parents and carers should be allowed the opportunity to increase their knowledge of drugs and alcohol awareness and be aware of how they can support their children and recognise the signs of substance misuse. Schools wishing to find out more about ways to strengthen these links with parents and carers can seek advice from Mosaic's Family Team.

If Police attend at school to interview a student about a substance related incident, consent from that student's parent or carer must be gained prior to any interview taking place. Parents and carers can refuse consent for the interview to happen. As a last resort, a senior member of school staff can give consent for the interview to take place providing that all attempts at contacting parents have been unsuccessful. It is important that any attempts made to contact parents and carers are recorded with date and time.

For further guidance, please use the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

4.2 School response to incidents where a pupil has ingested a substance

If the pupil is unresponsive or otherwise displaying behaviour or physical symptoms that are concerning, call 999 and request an ambulance immediately, then follow school policy for responding to medical emergencies. If it is considered safe to do so, First Aid may be given by a trained First Aider in accordance with Health & Safety Policy.

If a pupil is under the influence of a substance but does not appear to be at risk of serious harm in that moment, they should be taken to the School Head if possible, and a decision taken as to whether the pupil should remain in school or be sent home. Informing parents and carers is a decision to be taken by the School Head and teaching staff.

Any substance the pupil is found to be in possession of must be confiscated by an appropriate member of staff, ideally wearing a face mask and gloves. Containers of alcohol can be emptied into a sink and disposed of. It is important that a witness is present for the removal and disposal of any substance a young person is in possession of, with a clear record of the event noted down on appropriate school systems including times and dates.

Any incidence of removal of a substance from a young person should be done in accordance with the school's own searching and confiscation guidance and Behaviour Policy.

4.3 School response where a pupil is suspected to be in possession of illicit substances, alcohol or tobacco

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include alcohol and illegal drugs. The law says that the person conducting the search may not require the pupil to remove any clothing other than outer clothing.

4.4 Searches and Confiscations

Any search carried out on a young person or their possessions should be carried out in accordance with school policy on searches.

Pupils should be given an explanation as to why the search is being undertaken, and that staff have reasonable cause to suspect that they have alcohol or drugs in their possession.

All searches and any confiscations should be witnessed by another member of staff, with times, dates and findings clearly recorded. However, if a drug or alcohol is found, staff should never leave the substance with the student if no witness is available to support them.

The student, and the substance itself, should be taken to the school Headteacher or appropriate/nominated member of senior staff.

If the substance confiscated is believed to be an illicit drug, the Headteacher or senior staff member will place the substance in a sealed container or police evidence bags and lock away until it can be disposed of safely and correctly. Both the Head/Principal and another staff member will sign and date the container.

The appropriate disposal of any seized illicit substance should be managed as quickly as possible. It is not appropriate for substances to be placed in a locked location for safekeeping or retained on school property for any longer than is necessary. On no account should any member of school staff transport the substance in their vehicles or on their person to a Police Station, pharmacy, substance misuse service or medical establishment. Police should be notified of the seizure of the illicit substance at the earliest possible opportunity, and they will arrange to attend for collection and safe disposal.

Seizures of alcoholic drinks which are contained in clearly marked cans or bottles can be disposed of by emptying these down the sink or drain. If there are any suspicions that the liquid is not alcohol but a different psychoactive substance (e.g., Lean), please follow the same process for the handling of illicit drugs.

Seizures of Bongos, pipes, vape and vape oil, needles and syringes and any other paraphernalia should be handled in line with the Local Authority Health & Safety guidelines as per school's Supporting Children with Medical Conditions policy. Wherever possible, appropriate PPE safety equipment should be worn when handling any unknown substance and associated paraphernalia.

The Headteacher or senior staff member will meet with the Safeguarding Lead, if appropriate to discuss the student and the incident and agree upon an appropriate plan of action involving an investigation of the incident. This will need to be on a case-by-case basis. A review of the school's CCTV should be considered as part of the action.

If as part of the investigation, a student is found to be supplying drugs or alcohol to other students, a permanent exclusion could be considered. However, this should always follow the usual process for permanent exclusion. The supply of substances will be deemed as gross misconduct.

Parents and carers of the student(s) involved should be informed as soon as is reasonably possible.

Any information recorded as part of the investigation should be written up on the schools Serious Incident paperwork and recorded as per school policy on the storage of written information of this nature. All records of such an incident should be as detailed as possible, factual, and include records of conversations held with key others, such as parents and carers, other pupils and members of staff.

4.5 School responsibility in relation to Information Sharing

It is extremely important that no member of staff at a school promise complete confidentiality to a pupil. Young people who are using (or suspected to be using) substances are classified as being at risk of harm. Data Protection law allows information to be shared, without consent, provided that doing so is in the interests of preventing harm and promoting the health and safety of individuals or others. Similarly, it is the duty of all school staff to share relevant information if they have cause to suspect that a young person is at risk of harm from their behaviour, or the behaviour of others.

Staff who are sharing information should always seek the views of the young person prior to doing so, unless this delay would increase risk. If the young person refuses to consent, it is still necessary to share the information so that interventions can be put into place in order to safeguard the pupil from potential harm.

Where there are concerns around a pupils' use of substances (actual or suspected) a referral should be made to Mosaic's Drug & Alcohol Service, where an assessment of need will be carried out and interventions put in place in the interests of keeping the young person safe from harm. The young person must consent to this information being passed to Mosaic, and at least one parent or carer should be informed of the referral being made. If the student is under 13, parents and carers must be informed of why the referral to Mosaic is being made.

4.6 School Response if a Parent or Carer arrives under the influence of drugs or alcohol

If a parent or carer is on the school premises under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the primary concern for schools should always be the safety of the child in question, not the moderation of the parent or carer's behaviour.

If staff are concerned that the parent or carer is unable to safely provide care for the young person, they should follow school policy in relation to Safeguarding before making any decisions about whether to discharge the child back into the care of that adult.

If a parent or carer is acting in a way that is volatile, aggressive or abusive, or behaving in any manner which places students, staff or other parents at risk, Police should be called for support with the incident and Safeguarding processes followed. Similarly, if schools note that a parent/carer is frequently causing a risk to a child through substance use, it is important to consider a referral to the MASSH or to Police.

Children of Substance Misusing Parents can be adversely affected by the drug or alcohol use of their loved one, and in many cases are acting as carers for their own caregiver. This places barriers on school attrition and progress and can cause significant difficulties for the children affected. It is important that all school staff feel equipped to identify and approach young people who may be affected by Parental Substance Misuse with a view to offering onward support from services or Early Help interventions.

4.7 Substance Misuse & Safeguarding

A student using drugs or alcohol *alone* may not be an automatic Safeguarding concern warranting a referral to the MASSH. If in doubt, please refer the young person to Mosaic and Mosaic will pass on information to MASSH if necessary. Key to understanding whether or not such action is needed is to sensitively gather enough information from the student and their families (if possible) to paint as comprehensive a picture as possible about the needs of the student and how these can best be met. It is important not to overlook the importance of schools in the identification of safeguarding issues in the face of a concern around drugs or alcohol. Key additional risk factors suggesting links to organised crime or Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) would be:

- Young people in possession of drugs and/or alcohol they have no obvious means of affording (especially more expensive drugs such as cocaine)
- Young people seen to be selling drugs to other students
- Young people observed to be wearing new and expensive clothes, mobile phones, bikes, shoes, jewellery or other possessions suggesting they may have access to large amounts of money or may be being bought these possessions.
- Young people who are seen to be meeting or associating with older people near to the school grounds.

In terms of identifying the wider signs of abuse or neglect, schools are urged to use their judgement in recognising students who are at risk from this and act in accordance with the school Safeguarding Policy. Please seek guidance from Mosaic in the case of any substance specific concerns. All students who present at hospital or A&E under the influence of drugs or alcohol will have their details shared with Mosaic as a matter of course, and Mosaic will make arrangements to see them in school wherever possible.

5 Vaping

Vaping is an important quit aid for adults who smoke however there has been a recent and marked rise in youth vaping.-The following guidance should be considered prior to taking action if a student is found with a vape pen or other vape device, vape liquid, coils, tanks or other paraphernalia.

5.1 Vape devices

Vape devices commonly come in the form of an “all in one” vape pen, a disposable device which contains an integrated battery, vape liquid and nicotine. The pens are typically brightly coloured and fruit flavoured. The liquid in these devices cannot be easily accessed or altered. Vape devices can also be obtained as “separates” - a battery pack with a screen-based display and a removable tank which is refilled with nicotine and allows for vape coils to be swapped.

5.2 Vape liquid

Vape liquid is a mixture of vegetable oils, propylene glycol and flavourings. It is illegal to sell vape liquid containing nicotine in a quantity greater than 10mls; for large bottles of vape liquid separate “nic shots” containing concentrated nicotine are added to the liquid and mixed together. Vape liquids are available in a huge range of flavours including fruits, milkshakes, cakes, donuts and popular sweets.

5.3 Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill aimed at protecting future generations across the UK from the harmful impacts of smoking, was introduced to Parliament in March 2024 and MPs voted in favour of this on its second reading. The Bill stated it would give the government new powers to tackle youth vaping by restricting flavours and regulating the way that vapes are sold and packaged to make them less appealing to children. Progress was stopped following the announcement of a General Election and the dissolution of Parliament. Given the wide cross-party support for the Bill and general public support, it is possible that such a Bill will be reintroduced in the future.

5.4 Illicit vapes

There is a substantial market in illicit, unregulated vapes. All vapes must comply with the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations and be labelled in accordance with the regulations for hazardous substances. The key requirements are listed below.

Nicotine-containing vapes must not:

- have a nicotine strength of more than 20mg/ml or 2%
- contain more than 2ml of nicotine-containing liquid

5.5 Key risks to consider with vaping

Excessive use of vapes may present as nausea, sore throat, dizziness and headaches. In the event of an extreme adverse reaction, this should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MRHA) via the [Yellow Card Scheme](#).

It is important to consider that young people who regularly vape may be dependent on nicotine and experience withdrawals should the vape be removed. Young people who need support to quit vaping can access support from ABL Health who can also provide Nicotine Replacement Therapy.

Illicit vapes can also contain illegal THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol - a psychoactive chemical found in cannabis).

5.6 Legal status

The law bans the sale of vapes for anyone under 18 and bans the proxy purchasing of vapes for children by adults - It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be sold a vape device, and illegal for anyone to purchase a vape device for anyone under 18. Vapes should be confiscated from students and action taken in line with policy guidance around confiscation of drugs and alcohol. Care should be taken when young people disclose that their parents or carers have purchased a vape device for them—whilst illegal this is not an automatic safeguarding concern and further information should be obtained prior to decision making in this respect.

5.7 Supporting students who are vaping

ABL Health are commissioned in Stockport to provide advice, guidance and support to anyone over the age of 12 who wants to stop smoking or vaping. ABL can be contacted for further information, or to refer a pupil, on **0161 870 6492** wellness.ablstockport@nhs.net.

If the vape contains illegal substances, the young person should be referred to Mosaic.

5.8. Disposal

Single use disposable vapes contain electrical components, including lithium-ion batteries, and are therefore considered Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), in UK law. WEEE includes most products that have a plug or need a battery. Such equipment should never be disposed of in household waste and should instead be handed in to an approved collector of WEEE waste. Details of your nearest recycling point can be found here. [Recycle Your Electricals - WEEE Recycling - Material Focus](#)

5.9 Safe storage

The vast majority of vaping devices have circuitry to regulate battery power and protect vapers from battery malfunctions. On very rare occasions, a battery in a vaping device may fail by discharging all its stored energy at once. The risk is low; a 2022 OHID review reported 15 fires related to vaping products across London from 2017-21 compared to 6428 from smoking, i.e. 0.2% of fire service responses in this category. However, as you will not know the prior handling of a confiscated device, the advice is to store them in a clearly marked container, away from flammable material (and for no longer than necessary) until you can dispose or recycle.

5.10 Trading Standards

Trading Standards teams should be contacted if schools have concerns about underage sales of vapes and/or tobacco in their local community. These teams are also keen to be informed of any activity relating to illicit vape or tobacco products. To report an incident please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or email using the form at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>

5.11 Types of Vapes

Whilst all vapes are illegal to sell to under 18s, there are a number of different types of vapes that are a cause for concern. Please see the table below to review information about vapes.

Commercially available 2ml Disposable Vape Device	Whilst illegal to sell to under 18s, these devices are restricted to a limited amount of nicotine and “puffs” and are freely available at a wide range of high street shops, supermarkets, petrol stations or online websites. They contain concentrations of Nicotine varying from 0mg to 20mg.
2+mls Disposable Vape Device	These devices can contain nicotine levels higher than is allowed in the UK and contain vape liquid in higher quantities which allows for as many as 10,000 “puffs”. It is not permitted to sell these non-compliant devices in the UK, but they remain freely available online and in some shops.
CBD Vape Device	Legal for general sale in the UK to over 18s. CBD vape oil can be found in a sealed vape “pen” or as a liquid which is added to the tanks of larger vape devices. It produces little to no psychological effect but has been associated with a sensation of physical relaxation.
THC Vape Device	All “THC Vapes” are banned in the UK. These are illegal vapes and vape oil which is illicitly produced and made into a liquid which contains a high concentration of THC, the active ingredient in cannabis which produces a strong psychological effect. Vitamin E acetate is used to dilute the liquid and has been found in some THC vapes— when heated this is linked to the production of a toxic gas which is highly damaging.

It is important to note that in many cases, all of these vape devices are indistinguishable from the next. THC oil will generally look like a clear to yellowish liquid contained in a small bottle or a vape pen, and this closely resembles legally available CBD and nicotine based vape oil. If a device is found or observed to be in the possession of a pupil on school grounds, confiscate the device and ensure that you wash your hands thoroughly if they come into contact with the devices or liquid.

6 Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if I am concerned that a student is taking substances? If you have a trusting relationship with the student, you should take an open approach to asking them about your concerns, or speak with the Head of Year or Pastoral Lead to establish who would be the best person to have this conversation. If relevant, the student can be referred to Mosaic’s Drug & Alcohol Service for support.

What should I do if I find an illicit or suspicious substance on a student or on school premises?

Find an appropriate container or bag in which to secure the suspected substance. Label the container with the date and time and location found. Ideally this should be done with an appropriate witness. Store the container somewhere lockable. For full guidance see page 12 of this document.

Should my school use drug tests on students?

Drug tests should not be conducted on students. Drug tests can only be conducted with the consent of the student and their parent or carer, noting that if the student is under the influence of a substance, they are unlikely to have capacity to consent. Drug testing can lead to an increase in non-attendance in young people who may be struggling with a substance misuse issue. Similarly, the appropriate response from the school to any positive test can vary from student to student and is extremely difficult to plan for. Targeted interventions such as classroom-based sessions and assemblies can provide information and offer support to students in a non-confrontational way.

What should I do if I find a student with a vape pen?

Confiscate the device in line with guidance in section 4.

How can I refer to Mosaic?

Please complete the dedicated fast track referral form and send this to msbr.team@stockport.gov.uk, or telephone 0161 218 1100 and request callback.

What is Nitrous Oxide?

Nitrous Oxide is a gas which, when inhaled, gives a brief sense of euphoria, giggling and light headedness. It is typically found in small silver cannisters and is used in food aerosols (e.g., as a propellant in whipped cream), medicine and car engines. Clear signs of Nitrous Oxide use are the presence of the small silver cannisters. Prolonged inhalation can cause unconsciousness or even death. Nitrous was classed as an illegal substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act in November 2023. Please refer all students using Nitrous Oxide to Mosaic.

What should I do if a student discloses that their parents or carers use substances?

Ask the student if they would like to speak to a Mosaic worker in confidence about their feelings around this. A referral can be made to the Mosaic service, or alternatively Mosaic can consult with an appropriately placed member of staff within the school to guide them in supporting the student.

When should we refer a case to MASSH?

It is not always the case that a young person using a substance or drinking alcohol indicates significant safeguarding concerns. A number of factors should be considered including the age of the child, the substance being used, whether there are additional concerns such as CCE, or if the young person is demonstrating other behaviours which are worrying. The MASSH will generally link in with Mosaic as soon as a substance related referral is made, and Mosaic are able to link in with MASSH should a young substance user warrant further work around safeguarding. If in doubt, it is always better to make the referral to MASSH or to Mosaic so that a decision can be made around level of response within Stockport Family.

When should we refer to Mosaic?

All identification of substance use in pupils is an opportunity for education with a view to preventing harm. Unless the young person and/or their parent or carer does not give permission, all pupils should be referred to Mosaic when there are concerns around drugs or alcohol use.

What do Mosaic do with the pupils?

A Mosaic worker will meet with the young person, generally in the school but also at other venues in the community if this is preferred. The initial meeting can simply be a chat about their situation and drug use and aims to gain insight into whether Mosaic support could be helpful. The young person may decline further input or agree to future sessions; these will consist of education around substances, harm reduction advice and signposting to other support such as mental health.

What is Harm Reduction? Does it not just encourage more substance use? Harm reduction operates on the principle that young people are inquisitive, curious and are in many cases likely to try drugs or alcohol and may already be using substances. An approach which is seen as lecturing or telling off, (or simply asking someone never to do drugs or alcohol), is unlikely to be effective and risks alienating that pupil. If substance use does occur, it is vitally important that this be done as safely as possible: young people are provided with the information they need to do this. Harm Reduction does not condone substance use.

My school doesn't have a drug problem. Why should we work with Mosaic? Regardless of the demographic of the school or the local area, it is probable that a number of students in any given High School will have used, seen or been exposed to drugs and alcohol on some level. This includes substance use within the family, such as the drug or alcohol use of a parent/carer or sibling. As such it is still very important that educational messages be delivered so that pupils and teaching staff are informed about substances and affected pupils can be offered appropriate support at the right time.

Why are so many young people vaping?

Tobacco use has fallen amongst young people since 2011 but nicotine use, largely in the form of vape pens, has risen. Vape pens are easily concealed, carry very little smell and are convenient for young people in a way that cigarettes are not.

7 Commonly used substances

Drug Name	Effects and Appearance	Use
Cannabis <i>Weed, hash, skunk, dope, bud, draw, Ganja, puff, grass</i>	Green leafy plant with pungent aroma. Blocks of brown "resin". Gives a calming/relaxing effect on the user	Typically smoked in a "spliff" with or without tobacco. Can be eaten and is often made into gummy sweets known as "edibles".
Alcohol <i>Booze, spirits, beer, bevvy</i>	Bottled or canned liquid in various strengths, when consumed this leads to feelings of relaxation and social inhibition, loss of balance and co-ordination.	Almost exclusively a drink, either on its own or mixed with fizzy drinks or juice
Cocaine <i>Coke, sniff, powder, white, lines, bash, snow, wash</i>	White powder and potent stimulant, causes excitability, energy, happiness, anxiety, paranoia	Arranged into lines and sniffed into the nostrils through a tube, or a small amount off a key
Nitrous Oxide <i>Balloons, Noz, laughing gas, chargers, whippets</i>	Small silver canisters or larger "food grade" canisters of gas which give brief feelings of giddiness, giggling, light-headedness	Inhaled from a gas filled balloon or directly from the canister into the lungs
Volatile Substances <i>Glue, gases, aerosols, chroming, solvents, lighter fuel</i>	Any substance which can be sniffed or inhaled causing light-headedness, feeling drunk, uncoordinated or slow	Inhaled directly from a container such as an aerosol, sometimes head is covered with plastic bag or sheet
Ecstasy/MDMA <i>MD, Es, doves, Mitsubishis, Mandy, Molly, Pills, Crystal, Dizzle</i>	Pills with a picture stamped into them, or white/grey crystal-like powder. Gives feelings of energy, happiness, giddiness	Pills swallowed and powder generally rubbed onto gums
Ketamine <i>K, Ket, Special K, Vitamin K, Super K</i>	Clear liquid. Grainy white or brown powder. Anaesthetic giving feelings of detachment, dreaminess, chilled but also hallucinating and/or altered perception.	Sniffed into the nostrils or swallowed. Can be injected into muscles.

8 Mosaic School Buyback Offer

Context: In recent years, Mosaic young person's drug and alcohol support has been provided to schools on a buyback arrangement, with participating schools receiving an enhanced offer. It has become apparent since the Covid Pandemic that the buyback provision needs some amendments. This is to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of young people in an efficient manner, and to provide a more targeted and flexible approach to supporting schools with their delivery of education around substance misuse. Changes to the buyback arrangements are as follows.

Provided as standard – no charge: Dedicated referral Pathway for all Stockport High Schools to refer their students to Mosaic requesting 1:1 support provided by a Mosaic worker in the school. We ask that schools provide a confidential space in the school and allow for time for students to leave lessons to see their worker at a mutually agreed time. A Mosaic worker will attend School TAS meetings on invitation and provide input in cases in which there are concerns around Parental Substance Misuse or substance misuse in young people.

All additional supplemental services will now be offered on a “package” basis which schools can select individually in order to build a bespoke wraparound service which will enhance the school offer to young people and families. The following page contains the packages offered by Mosaic and the associated charges.

In addition to the individual packages, Mosaic offer an “all in” package, which for a one-off fee covers all of the packages for an academic year and this represents best value for money. It is the responsibility of the school to reach out and arrange sessions, but a Mosaic rep will contact schools to link in and offer support.

8.1 Bespoke Offer

If none of the packages are suitable, all schools can set up a bespoke service which best fits their needs and request a quote for provision. Mosaic are happy to work with schools to co-produce a package of information, interventions or sessions which would be most appropriate for pupils and staff. Please email mosaic@stockport.gov.uk to explore this offer.

<p>Weekly school “drop in” Package Mosaic will provide a regular worker who will spend the equivalent of half a day per week (3.5 hours) in the school undertaking relevant activities with students, as agreed with the school and Mosaic. Activities may include: A safe space for students to have informal discussions with the Mosaic worker about concerns around drugs or alcohol, whether this is their own use, or the use of a parent or caregiver A regular session focused on aspects of student wellbeing, mindfulness or relaxation Signposting and low level conversations around issues relating to SRE, smoking and vaping A presence in communal areas of the school, getting to know students with a view to having structured conversations around health and wellbeing or behavioural change</p>	<p>£4700 per academic year (half day rate) £2730 per academic year (2 hour per day rate) Costing based on multiplying minutes of worker (S01) time over 39 weeks of academic year</p>
<p>Carousel and Drop Down Educational Package Mosaic will provide a minimum of two workers who are able to engage large groups of students to provide a structured educational session around drugs and alcohol. This includes Delivery of drug and alcohol related education and harm reduction sessions, as agreed with the school Co-development of bespoke learning packages, agreed with school to be age appropriate in tone, language and content Practical engagement and activities including the Drug Box and Alcohol Goggles to smaller groups of children as part of carousel days or classroom sessions</p>	<p>Flat charge of £117 then £35 per hour of session delivery per worker delivering Each full session regardless of length is billed with 30 minutes manager oversight (MB4) and 60 minutes of Business Support (Scale 4) plus 120 minutes of Powerpoint development, lesson planning, resources including paper and pens (S01) totalling £47 + £70 = £117</p>

<p>Staff and Governor Training Package</p> <p>A named trainer from Mosaic will deliver education and advice sessions once per term to staff or governors from the school. This can consist of:</p> <p>Bespoke training packages which can be up to one full day in length, focused on the latest trends and broad overview of substance use.</p> <p>Bespoke training looking in detail at one particular substance or substances on request from the school</p> <p>Briefing sessions for Senior school staff and governors on drugs and alcohol awareness, local service offer and pro- vision for students</p>	<p>£590 per academic year</p> <p>Costing based on 240 minutes writing content, producing presentation, travel and delivery time for 1 x S02 member of staff, 30 minutes MB4 Team Leader supervision and input, 60 minutes Scale 4 Business Support</p>
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<p>Mosaic School “all in” buyback package</p> <p>This package will include all the above provision made as one single payment for each academic year, and schools can request any of the above elements at a time suitable to them. Please only select this package if you intend to make use of the provision; this ensures that Mosaic is able to offer the best value for money for schools.</p> <p>Examples of what falls under this package include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop Down and carousel sessions Classroom based education sessions Presentations to parents/carers about substance related harms TAS meeting attendance Weekly school drop ins School assemblies Training for DSLs, governors, teachers and other staff 	<p>£3500 per academic year</p>
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