



The Acorns School Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Misuse Policy

The Acorns School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will always act to safeguard their wellbeing. The Acorns School does not tolerate the use of illegal drugs, or the misuse of alcohol. This policy aims to set out our expectations regarding drugs, alcohol, and tobacco/vaping misuse.

The Acorns School has a detailed personal development curriculum to educate pupils around drugs, alcohol and tobacco including vaping products, consequences of use and misuse and widen understanding about related health and social issues, to enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices.

Tobacco and Vaping Products

It is both Lancashire County Council and School Policy that smoking and the possession of smoking materials are forbidden on school premises. Pupils are asked to hand in any smoking paraphernalia, or they will be refused entry into school. Pupils who smoke/vape on the school site which includes all outside areas on the school premises, and those who refuse to hand in any smoking paraphernalia will have their parents/carers contacted to explain that the pupil will need to return home.

A first offence will lead to a letter being sent home to parents, any further incidents will lead to an emergency review meeting at the school with parents and the pupil to address the issue. This will be logged on the pupil's file.

Pupils are not permitted to smoke/vape in taxis on the way to or from school. If a pupil smokes/vapes in a school taxi, then taxi privileges will be removed.

Alcohol

Alcoholic drinks may not be brought onto the school premises, any pupils suspected of being under the influence of alcohol will be sent home after following school policy of contacting parents. This will be logged on the pupil's file.

Drugs

It is the school's policy and the law that possessing or dealing in illegal drugs is forbidden. Any pupils who are suspected of having illegal drugs on them will be sent home. Any pupils who are suspected of being under the influence of illegal drugs will be sent home after following school policy of contacting parents. During coat searches if any drugs are found they will be confiscated, parents



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informed, and the pupil sent home. This will be logged on the pupil's file and the police informed. Pupils can face an exclusion of up to 5 days for this offence, in the first instance.

Drugs definitions:

This includes controlled illegal substances such as cannabis, amphetamines, LSD, but also herbal highs, over the counter and prescription medicines used improperly, legal drugs used improperly such as solvents, Ketamine or Khat and drugs that are used to enhance performance for example steroids.

Confiscation & Searches

Any prohibited items (listed below) found in pupil's possession will be confiscated and not returned to the pupil at any time.

The police will be contacted should staff find knives/weapons, potential stolen items, illegal drugs, or fireworks.

The Headteacher and all staff have a statutory power to search a pupil they suspect has a prohibited item on them. Staff will ensure that the pupil understands the reason for the search and how it will be conducted before the search takes place. The member of staff conducting the search must be the same sex as the pupil and there must be another member of staff present to witness.

This will be logged on the pupil's file and pupils can face an exclusion of up to 5 days for this offence, in the first instance.

List of prohibited items:

- Knives and weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs or drugs paraphernalia
- Stolen items
- Cigarettes, tobacco, vapes
- Mobile phones
- Fireworks

Being in possession of a prohibited item especially knives, weapons, illegal drugs, or stolen items may mean that the pupil is involved, or at risk of being involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour including gang involvement, and in some cases may be involved in child criminal exploitation.

Policy to be reviewed Sept 24