Icknield High School

Drug Education Policy

2025-2026

Rationale

Icknield High School does not condone either the misuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other substances by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances. This will apply to the school premises and beyond, whenever students are within the care of school staff. This includes travel to and from school, trips and educational visits. For the purposes of this policy, 'drug use' refers to all drugs mentioned above. A drug is any substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. It includes legal substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, vapes, legal highs and solvents, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, GHB, Ketamine, alkyl nitrites (poppers) and Tetrahydrocannabinol (TCH).

Icknield High School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take the appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.

Icknield High School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward. This will be promoted through the PSHE curriculum, assemblies and tutor time. Where appropriate, expert visitors and external speakers will be sought to provide classes on drug and alcohol misuse. Furthermore, where appropriate the school will make referrals to external services that support and educate young people at risk of drug misuse and/or abuse e.g. referrals into Resolutions, Family Partnership.

Aims:

At Icknield High School we believe that a drug education programme is an educational entitlement of all students. We believe that by carefully considering our programme and its delivery we can play an important part in each of our student's development into adulthood.

To achieve our aims, we will:

- Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through helping them to increase their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills. To help young people to develop further a sense of self-worth and self-esteem.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To help young people to distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use.
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.

Success criteria

- Reduction in the number of drug related incidents reported
- When incident of illegal substances are reported, they are dealt with in line with this policy
- Students understanding of the effect of illegal substances on their bodies
- All staff are aware of the policy and understand how to implement it
- To enable students to identify where help and support can be found.
- To take action against students who deliberately contravene the schools drug policy.