

PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS POLICY

Approval Authority

Effective From: September 2023

Date Ratified by GB:

Next Review Date: September 2025

Signed by Chair of GB:

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Policy for Managing Drug Related Incidents

Staff at Pinner Wood rarely have to deal with drug related incidents, therefore there is a need for clear procedures should an incident occur. Each case needs to be dealt with individually with due regard to the welfare and safety of both the pupil concerned, other pupils and the drugs policy of any other school involved.

Wherever possible the Headteacher will be informed as soon as a drug related incident occurs.

If it is suspected that a pupil is under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol then they will not be allowed to participate in programmed activities at the school.

If there is any case of a medical emergency then medical assistance must be called for immediately and in all cases a member of the management team should be informed as soon as possible.

Pupil Discipline and Support

Drug related incidents will be discussed with any visiting group leader, Pinner Wood management, and if possible the school and Headteacher involved, to decide how to discipline pupils. All factors influencing the incident will be taken into account (e.g. the age of the pupils concerned, whether the incident involved one pupil or a group of pupils and whether there is evidence of particular peer group pressure). The behaviour policy has clear sanctions for breaking Pinner Wood rules and a variety of consequences/sanctions are possible including exclusion for the most serious cases. In all cases careful liaison must take place with the individual school(s) involved.

Confiscating an Illegal Drug and its Disposal

Pinner Wood staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting visiting pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession. If it is suspected that a pupil is concealing an illegal drug they will be invited to voluntarily surrender it. Under no circumstances must a teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the pupil refuses to surrender the drug then the Headteacher (or staff managing the incident) may decide to contact the police. If the police are called then the parents of the pupil involved must be contacted. However, the primary concern is the welfare of the pupil and if it is felt that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously over-react and subsequently harm the child then other appropriate agencies may be informed.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal and will either be destroyed (e.g. by flushing down the toilet or placing carefully in a sealed container for safe disposal) or handed to the police as soon as possible. A witness must always be present when disposing of any drug. Again a written record must be kept of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.