The John Roan School actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies. This is a school where human rights are respected; as such, the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of the John Roan School community. The school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. This policy is based on Drug Advice for Schools (DfE 2012); DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools; Drug Strategy 2012 (Home Office).

We will review and update this policy at least every two years. This policy should be read alongside other school policies including our Behaviour Policy, Health and Safety Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

Aims of our drug policy

Our policy aims to enable young people to make informed, healthy decisions about both legal and illegal drug use and reduce the harm from illegal drug use, minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use and delay the onset of drug use among students.

To do this, we will:

- provide appropriate education about tobacco, alcohol and drug misuse to students
- identify and assess students who may need help with their own or other’s drug misuse and refer them as necessary for support within school or outside agencies
- make clear that the possession, use and supply of illegal drugs is unacceptable throughout the school community and take action to prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and the misuse of legal drugs by students
- set out how the school will deal with drug incidents within the school boundary and on school trips

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by ‘drugs’ we are referring to illegal substances and legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia, we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone’s safety. Please refer to our Supporting Students with Medical Needs Policy.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult or students’ parents/carers and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school.

Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and...
parents informed. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes. Sanctions in-line with the School Behaviour Policy will be applied.

**Illegal drugs and legal highs**

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought onto or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

**Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

**Drugs on school premises**

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, playing fields and extends to include other settings e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

**Drug Misuse outside the school premises**

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016), the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity
- travelling to or from school
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school
- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school

**Responses to drug related incidents**

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

**Dealing with drug incidents**

A drug incident is any occasion when drug or substance misuse is identified. We will record all drug incidents and the action taken. The Governing Body will receive regular reports on any drug incidents and the application of this policy.
We will work with the Greenwich Substance Misuse Team, the Police and the school health service to manage drug incidents.

In dealing with an incident, the primary concern is for student and staff safety and the immediate response will be to consider whether the incident is a medical emergency and call for appropriate help. If an illegal drug is found at school, the Deputy Headteacher (or member of SLT) will take possession of the drug (ensuring a second adult witness is present throughout). The drug will be sealed in a plastic bag with the date, time and witness signature and stored in a secure location. The Deputy Headteacher (or member of SLT) will notify the Police without delay.

Where a student is suspected of involvement with an illegal drug, or the misuse of tobacco, alcohol or other substances, parents and carers will usually be informed and involved in discussions about appropriate action or referrals, unless to involve parents or carers may jeopardise the student’s safety and any safeguarding concerns.

Any member of staff suspected of drug misuse will be subject to the staff disciplinary procedures. It will be for the Deputy Headteacher or designated senior member of staff to determine the appropriate course of action for dealing with parents/carers/staff suspected of drug misuse on school premises. This may include exclusion from the school premises and/or calling the Police. Safeguarding concerns may result in an urgent referral to Social Services if a pupil may be at risk because of a parent’s drug misuse. Refer to Alcohol and Drugs policy.

**Right to search**

In line with recent legislation, the staff at The John Roan School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Please refer to the Searching and Physical Intervention Policy.

If inappropriate articles are brought into school or used inappropriately, they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection by parents and carers at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal, they will be handed to the Police for safe disposal. The John Roan School works closely with its Police Liaison Officer.

If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law, the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, Restorative Justice Conferencing, unless there are reasons why this should not be the case (for instance, serious safeguarding concerns) (an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of the victims and the offenders, as well as the involved community, instead of satisfying abstract legal principles or punishing the offender), group work and education, as well as links with home. Parents and Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews. Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the Police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

**Drug education**

We will deliver education about drug and substance misuse in PSHE and Science lessons.

Where possible, drug education will be delivered by specialist trained adults.

We aim to:

- increase students’ knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks of drug use
develop students’ skills and abilities to make informed healthy decisions about drugs, including how to deal with emergencies, keep themselves safe and healthy, resist pressure to take drugs and have confidence to seek help.

explore attitudes to drug use and the effects on families and communities.

We will place particular focus on planned programmes and drug education will continue through all years. We may also tailor education in response to incidents of local drug use or media reports. The school will work closely with local providers and educators to deliver workshops and more targeted support/intervention. School PRIDE Days are opportunities to support the delivery of these workshops.

Pupils who need help – Early Intervention

Some young people are more at risk and are vulnerable to developing substance misuse than others. Through a well–developed pastoral system, we aim to assess and meet the needs of pupils, and are alert to the early signs and symptoms of substance misuse and can access a range of specialist, local agencies to help and support children and families. All staff should be aware that students may be using drugs, or may have concerns about friends or family members who are drug users. Staff should use sensitive and non-stigmatising language when discussing drug use. We will provide appropriate, high quality training to all staff through CPD about how to identify drug misuse and what action to take. When a student discloses sensitive information to a member of staff, that confidence should be respected. However, staff should make students aware that they cannot promise total confidentiality if safeguarding matters or Police investigations are necessary. Where individual students are identified, possible support and intervention will be discussed via the year inclusion meetings.

Working with external agencies

The school works with partner agencies to achieve the best outcome for students, e.g.:

- Health Services (SMS)
- Police (including the school based Police Officer)
- Youth Service
- Social Services (Greenwich)
- Voluntary organisations
- The school will also use national organisations to enhance the planned PSHE Programme, e.g. FRANK, Drinkaware, and provide support.

Governors

Governors regularly review policies and practices and receive information relating to drugs issues as they affect the school (including incidents).

Policy

This policy will be reviewed in November 2021 in line with DfE advice.

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk
Website: https://adfam.org.uk/

Alcohol Change works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol–related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk
ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) - A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.
Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk
Website: https://ash.org.uk/home/

Children’s Legal Centre - operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.
Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk
Website: https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/

Children’s Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Email: info@crae.org.uk
Website: http://www.crae.org.uk/

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.
Tel: 020 7307 7450 Email: contact@drinkaware.co.uk
Website: https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drugwise is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. Drug Scope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.
Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk
Website: https://www.druwise.org.uk/

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.
24 Hour Helpline: tel:03001236600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com
Website: https://www.talktofrank.com/

National Children’s Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.
Tel: 020 7843 6000
Website: http://www.ncb.org.uk/

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.
Tel: 0800 800 2222
Website: https://www.familylives.org.uk/

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) -
A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.
Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762
Email: information@re-solv.org
Website: https://www.re-solv.org/

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169
Website: https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree

The Children’s Society - a new, national capacity building programme for professionals who work with and support children affected by parental alcohol misuse
Website: https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/parental-alcohol-misuse?

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.
Website: https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team