



PARTNER OF THE EVERYONE MATTERS SCHOOLS TRUST

Drugs Policy

Rainford High School



Policy Owner	Principal
Scope of the Policy	This policy applies to all of the school community
Last reviewed by trustees	September 2026
Next review due	September 2027
Summary of key changes	No changes



1. RATIONALE

- 1.1 We live in a society where drugs, legal and illegal, are a part of everyday life. Our students therefore need to be given the knowledge to form sound judgements and make informed, responsible decisions and the skills to be able to respond to the challenge posed by drugs in their lives now and in the future.

2. PURPOSES

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to
- To inform students about drugs, legal and illegal and the consequences of using and misusing these substances.
 - To equip students with the necessary skills of assertiveness and responsible decision making.
 - To shape attitudes within the legal framework of society today.
 - To work in partnership with parents and the wider community.
 - To keep all staff, students and parents informed of current issues.
 - To recognise the need for and to deliver an element of 'harm reduction' education.
 - To establish clear procedures for responding to the misuse of drugs on the school site.
 - To nurture a safe, healthy learning environment.

3. GUIDELINES

- 3.1 All students are entitled to and will receive a programme of Drugs Education within our PSHRCE programme
- 3.2 There will be additional curriculum enrichment activities such as appropriate
- 3.3 We will be flexible enough to respond to any specific current issues so that students can be made aware promptly via tutors, PSHRCE, lessons, assemblies. Regular updates from the L.A. Adviser, responsible for Drugs Education, will ensure staff, students and parents are well informed.
- 3.4 In the event of an incident we will work with the ambulance service, if appropriate, along with liaising with the St Helens safeguarding unit, the Young Persons Drugs and Alcohol Team and the Police. The safeguarding and/or deputy safeguarding lead will coordinate the response to a drugs incident, reporting directly to the Principal or Vice Principal (if the Principal is off site)
- 3.5 All instances of the misuse of substances will be dealt with by the Principal in a sequential escalating scale of sanctions as agreed by the St Helens Association of Secondary Heads.
- 3.6 Students who are known to be involved in misusing drugs will be offered the appropriate advice, guidance and counselling and where necessary encouraged to seek the help of professional agencies. We will always support students involved with drug misuse with a multiagency response

- 3.7 We will always be mindful of risk factors around child exploitation and county lines.
- 3.8 All drugs incidents will be dealt with as a safeguarding concern as well as a conduct concern, with safeguarding being the upmost priority.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 By practising the Drugs Policy the school will both raise awareness and increase the ability of its students to understand and manage their response to drugs in society.