

# COGNITA



## **Drug and Alcohol Policy**

### **ITALY**

**February 2024**

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of this Drug and Alcohol Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education, and ensure it is appropriate to meet pupils' needs. This policy provides information about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident.
- 1.2 This policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to, and concern for, the overall health and well-being of the whole school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information, as well as support.
- 1.3 This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies and documents listed on the back page of this document.

## 2 Statutory Duties

- 2.1 Schools have a statutory duty to promote pupils' wellbeing and hence have a clear role in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral care. Although there is no statutory requirement to have a Drug Policy, it is a requirement for all Cognita schools to have a clear procedure for managing any incidents related to drug and/or alcohol misuse. It is essential to protect staff, parent/carer(s) and children and young people.
- 2.2 Italian legislation (decreto legge 12 settembre 2013 n.104) prohibits smoking in and around educational establishments. In addition, practitioners must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substances which may affect their ability to care for children as per the Code of Conduct.

## 3 Application

- 3.1 This policy applies to all pupils on roll at the school, including those in the Early Years. It applies when being educated in school, when on educational visits, and when off-site at school related events. This policy applies when pupils are travelling to and from school on public transport. Any responsibilities of 'adults' refers to employees and others acting in a supervisory role with pupils.
- 3.2 This policy also applies to all staff, visitors and third-party contractors.

## 4 Terminology

- 4.1 'Drugs' here are taken to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco, Vapes/E-cigarettes and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, etc. 'Drugs' also include New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) often referred to as 'Legal Highs'.

## 5 The School's Stance on Drugs, Health and the Needs of Pupils

- 5.1 Possession: It is inappropriate and unacceptable for pupils to bring the above drugs into school, have them on their person, consume them before, during and after school and on the way to or from school, including on school visits. Cognita has a strict no smoking policy (including no vaping/e-cigarettes) on school sites. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be purchased, sold or otherwise exchanged during the school day between pupils or while pupils are on school visits, or taking part in any school activity.

- 5.2 Use: The school believes that the use of drugs in school, during the school day, while travelling to/from school or on school trips is inappropriate. Individual exceptions may only be made for pupils who require prescription medicines, where appropriate and with the agreement of the Headteacher in partnership with the child's parents. These arrangements will be recorded on the child's medical Health Care Plan.

## 6 Policy Framework

### 6.1 Drugs Education

- The school provides drugs education through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons where appropriate.
- The school may use a variety of external support to deliver our drugs education programme, this could include law enforcement agencies.

### 6.2 Staff Support and Training

The school is committed to providing drug awareness information and training where relevant.

### 6.3 Management of an Incident

- Where there is evidence or suspicion that a pupil has drugs in their possession, has used drugs or has passed/sold on drugs to another person, the school will follow its Behaviour Policy.
- Where it is believed that a parent or carer is under the influence of drugs (including alcohol) on the school premises, they will be asked to leave. If they are due to collect a pupil, and/or are attempting to drive a pupil home, and present as being under the influence of drugs (including alcohol), the child will be withheld in school to ensure their safety. Children will not be allowed to walk home to be cared for their parent, if there have been concerns that the parent/carer is under the influence of drugs. The parent or carer will be asked to make alternative arrangements for collection and ongoing supervision of their child (ren) in the home.
- If a parent or carer refuses to leave, and/or displays verbal or physical behaviour that is aggressive or intimidating, the Police may be contacted.
- Where there are serious or ongoing concerns about the adult's presentation and drug use, the school may consider banning a parent from entering the school site.

### 6.4 Police and Emergency Involvement

The school will immediately refer illegal incidents to the police.

### 6.5 The Needs of Pupils

The school will exercise its pastoral responsibilities and always look to support pupils and ensure that pupils have access to appropriate help and guidance.

### 6.6 Information Sharing

If the school has concerns about a child's safety, the school will share information with law enforcement agencies and safeguarding agencies as outlined in the Safeguarding Policy. This includes working in partnership with external agencies.

### 6.7 Involvement of Parent/Carer(s)

The school will inform parents and carers of any drug related incidents involving their own child, unless in very rare circumstances this would heighten the risk to the child.

### 6.8 Staff Conduct and Drug Use

All staff are required to adhere to the Staff Code of Conduct. Staff are subject to the Cognita disciplinary and other HR procedures should they breach policy.

### 6.9 The Role of the Principal

- The Principal takes overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.
- The Principal will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately trained and supported.
- Cognita cannot knowingly allow premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug. Where it is suspected that substances are being produced, sold or stored on the premises (by pupils or staff), details of those involved, together with as much information as possible, will be automatically passed to the police.

## 7 **Implementation of this Policy**

- 7.1 The Principal should ensure that all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.
- 7.2 Situations requiring first aid will be dealt with immediately as per the school's agreed policies and procedures. Information about emergency help for people who have had a bad reaction to drugs can be found at <http://www.talktofrank.com/emergency-help>.
- 7.3 In cases of substance misuse or supply on the premises during the school day or during educational visits, medical attention will first be sought where needed as per clause 7.2. At an appropriate time, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken following safeguarding/medical procedures. Parents/carers will be informed by the Principal as soon as possible following an incident. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate, including making referrals to social services if risk is identified for the child misusing/dealing drugs.
- 7.4 The school may decide to involve the police (unless it is required to do so) at the discretion of the Principal and in consultation with the Assistant Director of Education. The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with individual incidents. The Principal will inform the Assistant Director of Education and the Regional Safeguarding Lead in relation to all drug-related incidents.

## 8 **Specific Procedures**

### 8.1 Dealing with Information and Confidentiality

- Schools are an important source of support for pupils experiencing problems with drugs and must ensure that all staff (teaching and non-teaching) understand the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of confidentiality. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures must be followed. Staff cannot and must not promise confidentiality to the pupil.
- There are important reasons why personal and sensitive information needs to be shared in relation to child protection (e.g., when working with the police, referral to external agencies). Data protection legislation, namely, the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (as amended, extended or re-enacted from time to time) allows personal information to be shared if there is an over-riding public interest in the first instance, or to prevent crime and disorder in the second. However, in assessing the suitability of sharing information, all efforts should be made to encourage the young person to give their informed consent. If a decision is taken to share confidential information, a written record of any concerns, including the reasons for breaching a pupil's confidentiality, should be made.
- The following questions should also be considered:
  - How serious is the situation?
  - What immediate and significant risk does the young person face?
  - What implications (both positive and negative) could keeping a confidence have?
  - Could there be a transfer of risk to other children?

- Could significant harm result from keeping the young person's disclosure confidential?
- If a confidence needs to be broken, the school should explain to the young person (and parents/carers as appropriate): why the confidence was broken, who will be/has been informed, what will be/was disclosed, how the information will be used and that their privacy will be respected.

## 8.2 Parental Substance Misuse

- Parental substance misuse has the potential to impact negatively on outcomes for children and young people.
- Substance use in itself is not a reason for considering a child to be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm, although it may be a contributing factor.
- The Principal will liaise with the police and/or external agencies where required.

## 8.3 Legal Drugs

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but schools may wish to inform local police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the area.

## 8.4 Controlled Drugs (including New Psychoactive Substances)

In taking temporary possession of suspected controlled drugs, the school will:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- Seal the substance in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and the witness present;
- Store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff. **Do not dispose of the substance.**
- Notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols and legal regulations;
- Record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number if they are involved;
- Inform parents/carers,
- Identify any safeguarding concerns and respond appropriately; and
- If there is a significant seizure of a suspected illegal substance, schools should inform the police at an early stage and take steps to minimise handling to aid future forensic investigations.

## 8.5 Searching and Confiscation

School staff can search a pupil for any item only if the pupil gives express consent, noting that the ability to give consent may be influenced by the pupil's age or other factors. The Principal and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions without consent only in very rare scenarios, such as where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil has infringed school or legal regulations, such as holding alcohol and illegal drugs.

## 8.6 Use of External Input

- Children and young people often find visitors to school a useful and informative part of their learning, but equally research suggests that for visits to be successful there should be a shared understanding about the nature and content of the session/s. Schools should exercise caution with the use of visitors as there is some evidence that particular messages can have a detrimental impact on young people's intentions to resist using drugs including alcohol. Particular caution should be used when visitors have had first-hand experience of problematic drug use.
- Schools should ensure that visitors are appropriately qualified and trained to deliver work with children and young people in a school setting. They should also be aware of good

practice that recommends the avoidance of shocking images and inappropriate descriptions of or approaches towards drug use, have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the session and have seen and understood this policy.

- Visitors must be briefed on any particular sensitivities that there may be in the pupil group – these may include identified drug issues by particular pupils or their families – as well as any broader needs within the group. Teachers should negotiate the content of the session which is linked to the broader drug education and PSHE delivered by the school and ensure it is relevant to the identified needs of the pupils. Visitors should be made aware of the school's protocols for dealing with any disclosures or distress shown by pupils during the session.
- Members of staff should be present at all times when such a visitor is in the class and be ready to be an active participant in these sessions. They should ensure that they reflect on the learning from particular sessions with pupils and visitors, assessing the learning, and building skills to support and enable pupils to make healthy choices and to avoid risk-taking behaviour. Teachers should follow-up any unresolved issues or concerns and extend the learning begun by the visitor.

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Related documentation	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Behaviour Policy Suspension, Exclusion and Removal in other Circumstances Policy SEND Policy Complaint Procedure Educational Visits Policy Health and Safety Policy Curriculum Policy, including PSHE. Code of Conduct Use of Reasonable Force, Searching and Confiscation Policy