

# THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM



## SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT 75

# Drugs Policy

Updated by school:	03/03/2026
Next review due:	Academic Year 2028 - 2029
Policy review cycle:	Every 3 years
Policy Owner:	Headteacher

### **Vision Statement**

'Together we aim high, discover talents, and build a brighter future'

Thomas Mills High School is an Academy and a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England & Wales under number 7605059

## **1.Introduction**

1.1 This policy is written in conjunction with guidance from the Department for Education and the Association of Police Officers. The policy should also be read alongside the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Behaviour and Exclusion Policy.

1.2 Any response to drugs-related incidents need to balance the needs of the individual students concerned with the wider school community.

## **2.Key Points**

2.1 Drugs Education is an important component of Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), the Personal Development Curriculum and assemblies with external speakers.

2.2 The Behaviour Policy makes clear the school's stance on illegal drugs and substances and the likely consequences. Illegal substances have no place at Thomas Mills High School.

2.3 The school is mindful that students affected by drugs should have early access to support from local services (such as Turning Point).

## **3.Definitions**

3.1 Drugs have been defined as a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. All drugs have the potential to cause harm and increase risk.

3.2 The term 'drug' can cover medicines, alcohol, tobacco, psychoactive substances, volatile substances, illegal drugs and other unauthorised substances (including vape fluids and snus or tobacco pouches for example).

## **4.Incidents**

4.1 This can include any of the following:

- Suspicions of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding of drugs or related paraphernalia
- Use of drugs on school premises or close by and whilst travelling to or from, or representing the school
- Supply of drugs on school premises or close by and whilst travelling to or from, or representing the school
- Possession of drugs
- Rumours and/or reports of drug possession, supply or use

4.2 Any of the above should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff which will usually be the Headteacher.

## **5.Response**

5.1 The senior member of staff will agree an action plan with relevant members of staff. This could include an investigation as well as referrals to the statutory authorities probably through the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF).

5.2 It maybe that the incident may need to be dealt with as a medical emergency in the first instance.

5.3 The Behaviour and Exclusion Policy makes it clear that the use or supply of drugs by students will result in permanent exclusion.

5.4 Allegations against staff would be dealt with through the Staff Disciplinary Policy and Staff Code of Conduct.

## **6. Drugs Education and Awareness**

6.1 This is part of RHSE/Personal Development. The Head of Personal Development works closely with the pastoral teams and is available as a source of advice.

## **7. Support**

7.1 Support is available through the pastoral teams and also the School Nurse. Other sources of support such as 'Talk to Frank' or 'Turning Point' can also be signposted. Support is very important when parents/ carers or other family members misuse drugs.

7.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess if any student is at risk as well as the connection to extra-familial harm.

## **8. The role of schools**

8.1 Statutory duties support schools in promoting students' wellbeing and preventing drug misuse. Schools have powers of search and confiscation. The school works in close partnership with other agencies including the Police.

8.2 The school's education on drugs and the Behaviour and Exclusion Policy play an important part in prevention. Because of the risk of drugs on the school site, the school may, from time to time, choose to make use of drugs dogs both during the school day or at other times when students may not be ordinarily present.

## **9. Training and Information**

9.1 It is important that all staff have training that is appropriate to their role. All staff undertake appropriate Safeguarding induction and training.

9.2 Staff meetings and briefings are another source of disseminating information including relevant terminology. This includes child criminal exploitation and county lines.

9.3 The school will, from time to time, communicate with parents with relevant information. The school will also, when appropriate, arrange presentations.

9.4 The school is receptive to any information from parents and the response will link to the information and issue identified. All rumours and reports are taken seriously and investigated and, where appropriate, shared with other agencies.

## **10. Review**

10.1 Trustees will review the Drugs Policy every 3 years. However, the school is mindful of contextual safeguarding and will also respond quickly to changes in statutory guidance.

10.2 Senior staff are often invited to and attend (where possible) meetings with other professionals, sharing local information which may inform future actions in school re drugs awareness etc.