

NEW PARK ACADEMY – SECONDARY SITE

ANTI DRUGS POLICY

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To be reviewed	November 2025
Owner	Almut Bever-Warren
Designation	HEADTEACHER

ANTI DRUGS POLICY

This document is the result of a process of review and development of the school's 'Drug Education and Incident's Policy' (1996) in the light of relevant developments within, and requirements of, the United Kingdom Anti-drugs Co-ordination Unit and the DFE

Introduction

This policy seeks to support the school mission statement to strive to provide a caring, structured learning environment in which all pupils can develop academically, socially and emotionally to their full potential and in which pupils and staff feel safe, secure and valued. We at New Park Academy believe that our students need guidance on how to live safely in a drug using society in which the use of any drug*, regardless of its legal status at any point in time, has the potential for harm. School operates a 'zero-tolerance' to drugs on school premises policy.

** For the purposes of this policy, the term "drugs" refers to those substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, solvents and other volatile substances (including the nitrites ["poppers"]), prescribed and over-the-counter preparations, alcohol and tobacco. Where there are specific arrangements for specific substances, these will be highlighted.*

Staff development and training

The school recognises that, in order to properly implement and maintain this policy, there is a requirement to ensure that key staff, at least, have the opportunity to access appropriate and relevant development and training opportunities. The headteacher will ensure that there is a commitment to regular whole staff training and updating as part of the Inset requirement.

Drug education policy

Drug education is recognised as an important area of our pupils' education and development and, in conjunction with DfE guidelines, will form an integral part of the PSHE programme at New Park School. We recognise our responsibility to make a strong commitment to the education of our pupils whilst offering a high level of compassion and understanding to the individual needs of our pupils.

Aims

Our aims for drug education will be to

- ensure that all students have access to high quality drug education appropriate to their age, maturity, ability, ethnic heritage, experience and any other relevant criteria
- provide accurate information about substances including social, political, cultural, historical and economic perspectives
- increase understanding about the implications of use and misuse, enabling pupils to make informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging existing attitudes and developing and practising skills amongst staff and pupils alike
- foster a compassionate understanding of those experiencing, or likely to experience, problematic drug use or those who may involve themselves in experimental and/or recreational use
- explore related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, HIV, Hepatitis and crime
- minimise the risks that young drug users and potential users face by equipping them with relevant skills
- equip young people with the skills to deal with drug-related incidents, including basic first aid procedures
- enable pupils to identify sources of information, advice and support and be able to access these resources if required.

Drug education will be delivered within the legal parameters of any given time.

Drug education within the curriculum

Opportunities for drug education will be taken in line with National Curriculum requirements, especially through PHSE lessons, science lessons, and other areas of the curriculum where appropriate

Teaching content

The teaching content will fulfil at least the minimal recommendations at each relevant key stage (see below) and will be in line with national statutory and non-statutory guidance including DfE guidance, National Curriculum orders, Children's Services Strategy and guidelines and the school PSHE and Citizenship frameworks. The programme will be maintained accordingly and will be subject to change appropriate to local and national developments.

All intended teaching materials for use within the programme will be discussed with and determined by the PSHE Teacher. Where appropriate and

necessary, the Salford Children's Services Drug Education Development Officer will be consulted.

Monitoring, review and evaluation

Drug education content, delivery and outcomes will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated periodically and systematically.

Where appropriate and by negotiation, external evaluation by the Drug Education Development Officer, or another appropriate Children's Services representative, may be called upon.

Drug education delivery and outcomes will be reviewed and monitored by the Key Teacher in line with other curriculum areas.

Drug prevention policy

The school believes in a 'zero-tolerance' to drugs on school premises approach. School also believes that by taking positive action it can play a significant role in preventing the unwanted consequences of drug misuse for individuals and the school community, and create and maintain a safe and supportive environment for its members.

Aims

The aims for drug prevention are to

- ensure that the school works towards being a health promoting environment
- provide opportunities for drug education for parents and carers
- ensure that the school premises are a safe environment with respect to drugs
- ensure that pupils, staff and parents and carers have the opportunity to access appropriate and relevant help and support around drug-related issues and problems
- help pupils to develop self-esteem.

Prevention in practice

These aims will be achieved by

- making pupils and parents/carers aware of the 'zero-tolerance' to drugs on school premises approach (see guidance and advice to parents -Three Strike Approach)
- Referring to a Drug Counselling Agency as laid out in the Three Strike approach
- Involving governors at an early stage in a supportive but also boundary supporting role

- supporting the promotion of the Healthy Schools Standard initiative throughout the school,
- staff and pupils working towards a “smoke-free” environment
- ensuring that DFE and other appropriate and relevant guidance on managing medicines is implemented and supported by the school nurse and other appropriate staff;
- ensuring that an inventory of alcohol on the premises (e.g. for staff, and other events) is kept and that any alcohol is stored safely and securely (this is the responsibility of the headteacher);
- ensuring that there are opportunities for drug awareness information for parents and carers through general reading materials or contact through phone or home visit as well as courses
- ensuring that cleaning and all other staff are kept informed about the safe disposal of any drug-related paraphernalia found on the premises, that the school site is checked for such paraphernalia and that records are kept of any items discovered. (An appropriate sharps container will be available ensuring that staff and pupils are advised by school first aid staff about the procedures covering “needle-stick” and other sharps-related injury and available treatment)
- ensuring that information about local and national drug information, advice and support resources are available for pupils, staff and parents and carers;
- ensuring that there is a support system in place for any member of the school community who may be experiencing a drug-related problem
- ensuring that the development of self-esteem remains central to the ethos of the school.

Safeguarding Pupils – ‘County Line’ Drugs Dealing Gangs

County lines is the term used to describe gangs from large urban areas, who travel to locations elsewhere such as county or coastal towns supplying Class A drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines. The title ‘county lines’ refers to the use of mobile phone ‘lines’ to set up the deals. The gangs are likely to exploit children and vulnerable young people in order to move and store drugs and money. To do this they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons. Typically, users ask for drugs via a mobile phone line used by the gang. Couriers, who are sometimes very young children, travel between the gang’s urban base and the county or coastal locations on a regular basis to collect cash and deliver drugs.

‘County Lines’ drug dealing can involve both children and adults who require safeguarding. Vulnerable children are particularly at risk. Gangs recruit children and young people through deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. It often involves sexual exploitation. Gangs also use a local property as a base for their activities, and this often involves taking over the home of a vulnerable adult who is unable to challenge them. The Government is very keen to ensure that all the key sectors (police, safeguarding, children’s services, adult social services, housing, schools and others) are aware and are taking this issue seriously.

As a school there are a number of factors that we can look out for:

- A child or young person going missing from school or home or significant changes in emotional well-being?
- A child meeting unfamiliar adults or a change to their behaviour
- A child acquiring money or expensive gifts they can't account for
- A child with multiple mobile phones or tablets or 'SIM cards'
- A child with more money, expensive clothing, or accessories than they can account for
- Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries

To safeguard pupils from 'county lines' drug dealing we are following DfE expectations:

1. We have a drugs policy which sets out their role in relation to all drug matters – this includes the content and organisation of drug education, and the management of drugs and medicines within school boundaries and on school trips. It should be consistent with the school's safeguarding policy.
2. Our strategy for teaching children about safeguarding and health education ensures that pupils are aware of the dangers of exploitation and how to report them.
3. All staff aware of what 'County Lines' drug dealing is, through our statutory safeguarding training and CPD cycle.
4. There is a designated, senior member of staff with responsibility for the drugs policy and all drug issues within the school –
5. We aim to ensure that all members of staff are vigilant and know that they must report any concerns to the school's designated safeguarding leader or to the headteacher who must take prompt and appropriate action to safeguard any child considered to be at risk.

We continue to work closely with local police liaison team and other appropriate outside agencies to ensure the safeguarding of pupils who are identified as at risk from 'county lines' exploitation

Monitoring arrangements

The activities of the prevention policy will be monitored within the bi-annual review of the whole drug policy by the Senior Leadership Team and the Advisory Board.

Managing drug-related incidents

For the purposes of this policy, a “drug-related incident” will mean evidence or suspicion of a specific event during school hours – including trips, residential events, visits, sports events, vocational placements and any other event at which the school is being represented – involving one or more unauthorised drugs and requiring immediate action by staff.

A “drug-related situation” is an event or series of events, including planned events, involving one or more drugs which requires further observation, investigation, monitoring, managing or referring by staff.

The school acknowledges its responsibility as being central in addressing drug-related incidents within legal parameters and its responsibility to involve outside agencies where necessary.

The aims for the management of drug-related incidents are

- to have a clear and consistent set of procedures in order to be prepared for any drug-related incident
- to ensure that any drug-related incident is dealt with efficiently, expediently, sensitively and in the best interests of all concerned
- to ensure that the school does not overreact to drug use nor under react to drug misuse
- to define clear roles and responsibilities with regard to managing a drug-related incident
- to minimise the potential for negative publicity for the school or any member of its community.

This policy is about keeping pupils, staff and the whole school community safe and about managing any problems and issues that drug use might bring. It is not about punishment, labelling or unnecessary exclusion.

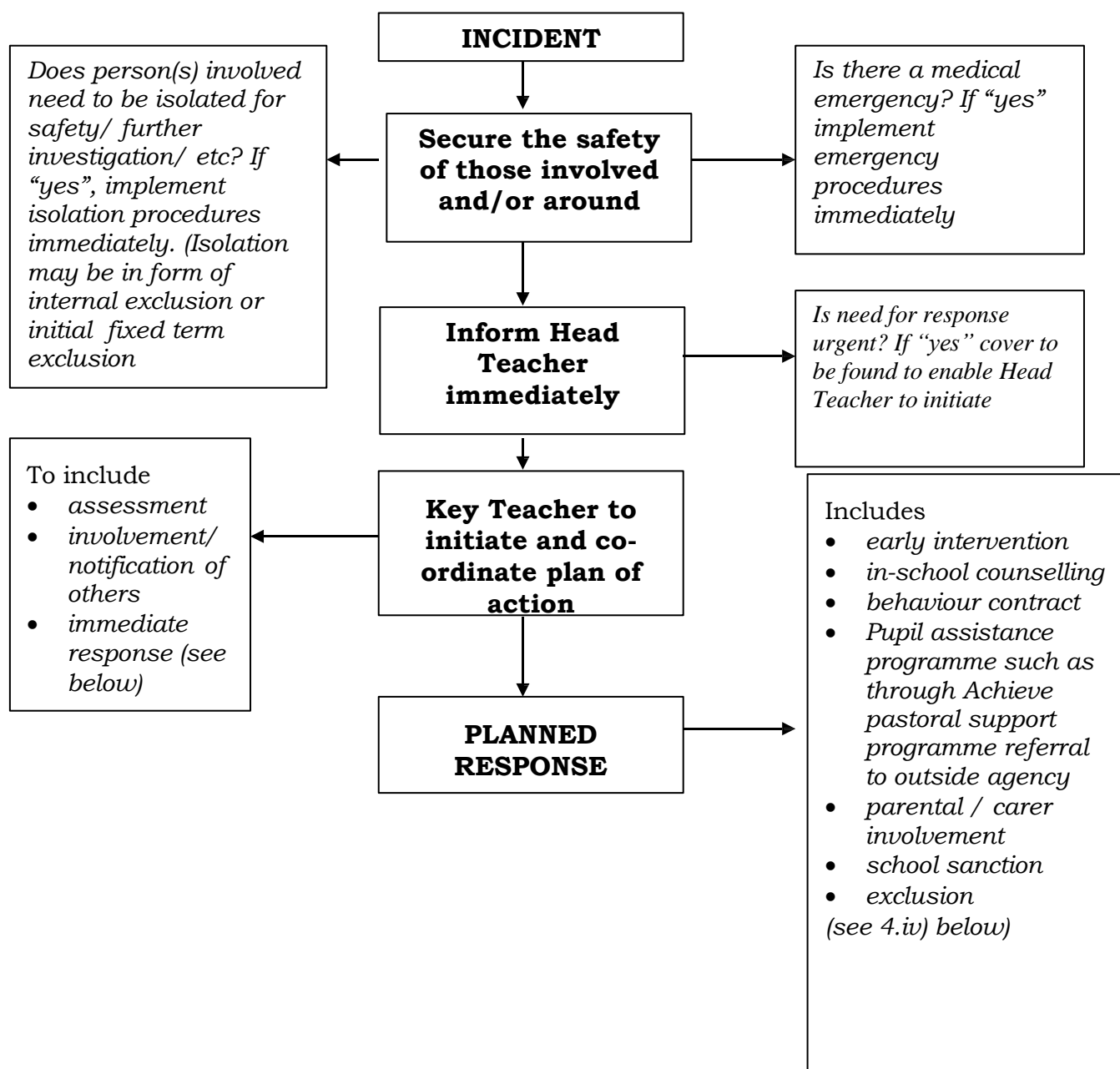
Process

For the purposes of this policy, two drug-related incident scenarios will be detailed; incidents that are “discovered” and incidents that are “disclosed”.

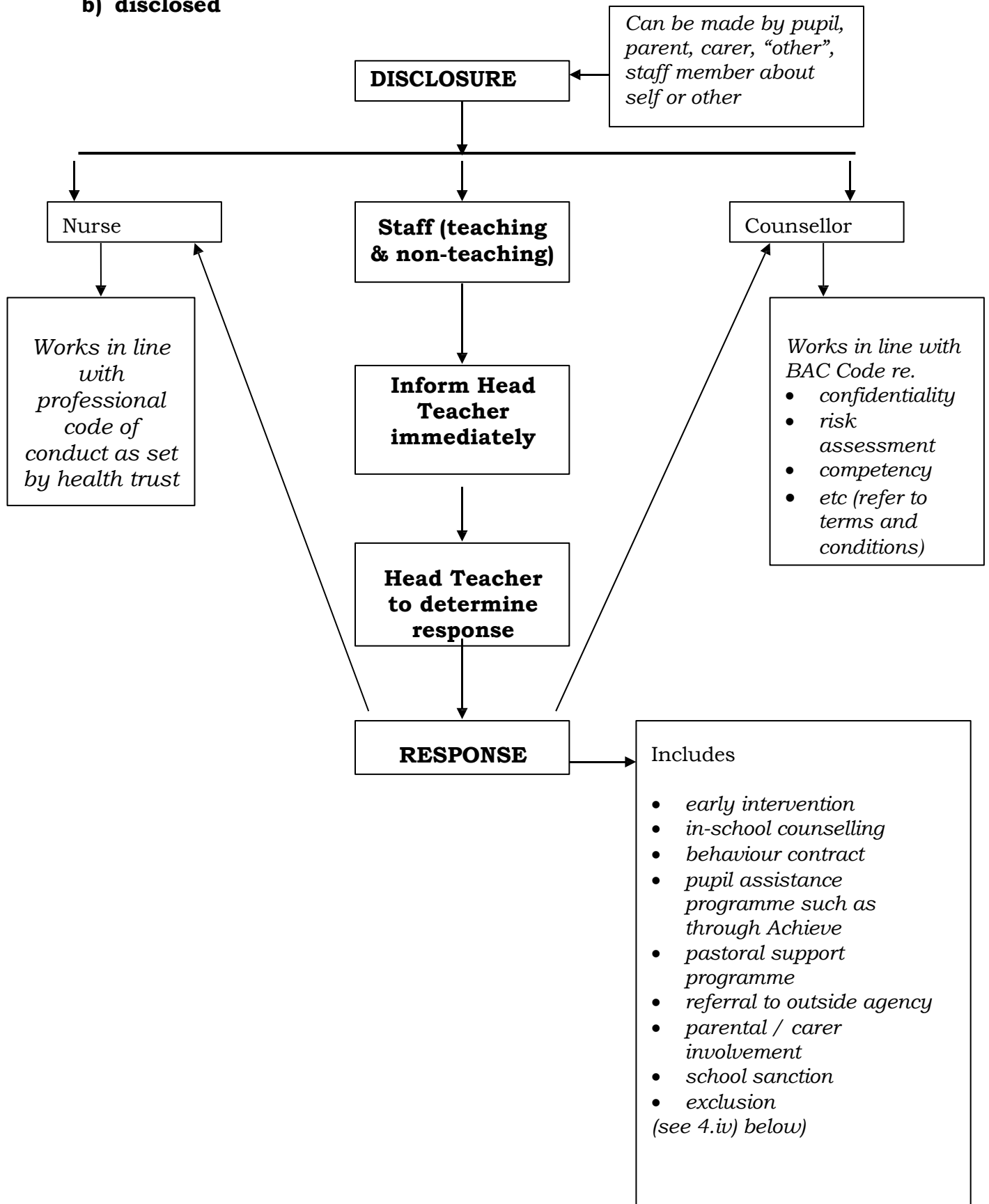
“discovered” refers to an incident where there is evidence possession of unauthorised drugs during school time, using drugs during school time, intoxicated during school time, supplying unauthorised drugs during school time, cultivating drugs on school premises, or involved in any of these activities out of school hours where there is evidence that such actions are affecting performance

“disclosed” refers to an incident where an individual or group disclose a concern, issue and/or problem associated with drugs. Any such disclosure may be about themselves or others.

a) discovered – the process is as follows for all unauthorised substances **except tobacco** which will be managed in line with existing procedures;



b) disclosed



In both situations, the Head Teacher will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity about the incident / disclosure, what initial actions have been taken and who else is involved. The process will involve:

- notification of parents / carers¹
- notification of police
- responsibility for assessment of the situation
- completion of incident records
- notification / involvement of other staff
- support to be sought from others including outside agencies, Children's Services, etc.
- recommendations regarding sanctions
- aftercare arrangements.

Response

The response to any drug-related incident will be determined by, and justifiable in terms of

- *the appropriateness of the response to the needs of the pupil*
- *the proportion with the incident in the case of it being "discovered"*
- *the needs of all concerned – the person involved, other persons involved, the school and the community*
- *the consistency with existing school rules, codes and expectations (eg, behaviour, support, discipline, equal opportunities, exclusions)*

If a young person is caught in a drug-related incident, the parent/carer will be sent a letter which articulates the 3-strike rule. This can be found as an appendix to this policy

The general principles that will be followed are that

- SLT will recommend an appropriate response after a full assessment and consideration of needs.

Contact by the media

All media contact will be referred to the Head Teacher who will determine the most appropriate response.

Monitoring and review

The activities of the incident management policy will be monitored within the annual review of the drug policy.

¹ "This would normally be at an early stage and as-of-right. In exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the relevant agencies, schools may delay the involvement of parents or not involve them" *Reference: DiES 2012 Drugs Guidance for Schools – Summary for Head Teachers and Governors*

Footnote 1 refers

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies September 2012

Either Version a:

Today, x.x.xxx, your child left school premises before the start of school, claiming they wanted to go to a shop, accompanied by staff. However, they decided to run out of sight of their supervising staff and could not be located for at least 10 minutes.

Your child is aware of the rule that if they choose to move out of sight of staff, they will be suspected of being involved in a cannabis related incident as otherwise, there would be no reason to run away.

Or: Version b

Today, 8th September, your Child **has been suspected of/has been seen** having taken Cannabis during school hours determined by the professional views of my staff.

All

Your child is now at strike **one/two/three** of our policy:

Strike 1	Your Child is suspected of having been involved in a cannabis related incident	Parent/carer will be informed. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting might be called and a consequence will be given
Strike 2	Your Child is suspected of having been involved in a cannabis related incident for a second time	You will need to attend a meeting at school with your child before they are allowed back onto school premises. You and your child will need to sign an agreement which will include a willingness to work with the drug prevention team.
Strike 3	Your Child is suspected of having been involved in a cannabis related incident for a third time	Depending on the circumstances, your Child will most likely be put on home tuition until a meeting has been called with the school governors where a decision will be made by a panel whether your child will be offered a very last chance or whether the placement at school will be terminated.