



Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Date of last review: August 2025

Date for next review: August 2026



1. Introduction

At Oaks Rise, child protection and safeguarding are integral to everything that we do. We want all children and young people attending our provision to feel safe and secure and to be supported in seeking help whenever they need it. We strive for all children and young people (CYP) in our care to feel confident in their trust of staff members and feel able to confide in staff members if they are experiencing any problems or concerns. We aim to provide an environment of open communication with staff, learners, parents / carers and any schools where learners may be on roll.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- We provide a safe and nurturing environment for all our learners, with our learners' welfare being paramount.
- All staff members, directors, and volunteers are fully aware, confident, and invested in their statutory responsibilities in relation to Oaks Rise policy on drugs and alcohol.
- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of Oaks Rise.
- All staff members, directors, and volunteers are appropriately trained and enable Oaks Rise team to manage drug related incidents that may occur with confidence and consistency.
- Outlines roles and responsibilities of staff, parents and learners and reinforces the collaborative relationship across our community.

2. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Whilst recognising that Oaks Rise is a part time alternative education provision and not a school, this policy is nonetheless cognisant of guidance in the following documents:

- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012
- DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022

The definition of a drug (given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.'

The term drugs, unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapor which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and amyl nitrates (poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines



- New Psychoactive Substances (aka Legal Highs)

This policy is linked to information found in other policies including the Oaks Rise Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy, Community Guidelines, Health and Safety Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and staff individual employment contracts.

3. Managing drug or alcohol related incidents

Any CYP arriving at Oaks Rise under the influence of recreational drugs or alcohol cannot be allowed to attend, the same goes for any CYP consuming drugs or alcohol on the premises. In this event:

- Parents / carers will be notified to collect the CYP as soon as possible and we will limit their interaction with other members of the community.
- We will fill out an internal safeguarding report about the incident.
- We will inform any school the learner may be on roll at.
- We will meet to discuss if this is indicative of a larger issue.
- We will strive to provide support on or off site to address any wider issues with the aim to welcome the learner back on site as soon as possible.
- If appropriate, we will make a referral to the safeguarding department at the relevant Local Authority where the CYP either resides and / or where their home school is based.
- The learner will need to take part in some form of accountability process before being able to attend again. For more information on this see our Community Guidelines Policy.
- The safeguarding team will meet to risk assess whether we can continue to meet needs for the CYP.

Please note, policy and procedures in relation to staff, directors or volunteers under the influence of drugs or alcohol are set out in the Oaks Rise Staff Code of Conduct and the Oaks Rise Disciplinary and Grievance Policy.