

Parent Drug Information Factsheet

What do we mean by ‘drugs’?

Alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs like cannabis or cocaine, medicines like opioid-based painkillers, new psychoactive substances or “legal highs” and solvents.

E-cigarettes (‘vapes’) may not necessarily be considered drugs, but they often contain the highly addictive drug nicotine. They may also contain cannabis or THC oil, which are illegal. E-Cigarettes/Vapes/Tobacco products are all prohibited items and should not be brought into school.

The term ‘controlled drugs’ means illegal drugs and some prescription medications that can cause harm if not used properly, like morphine.

Why do I need to be concerned?

Aside from the health and addiction risks, particularly for children and teenagers who are still developing, using drugs puts children at greater risk of abuse.

Substance misuse can also be an indicator that youngsters are being abused/groomed/targeted by individuals who wish to exploit them.

What should parents look out for

- Bloodshot eyes
 - Larger than normal pupils
 - Frequent nosebleeds
 - Shakes or tremors
 - Behaviour changes, particularly a lack of motivation, irritability or agitation
 - An unusual need for money
 - Suspicious injuries or bruises
 - Slurred speech
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What to do

- If you suspect your child has used/taken/been exposed to any of the substances listed above, seek immediate medical support
- Speak to the safeguarding team at Manchester Academy who will be able to support your child in school, offer EARLY HELP and also signpost you and your child to organisations who can help with their drug use.

If we suspect a pupil to be in possession of drugs

- Manchester Academy has the authority to conduct a search of any child we believe to be in possession of any prohibited items, including drugs. All searches are conducted by trained staff and with the approval of the Principal.
- If we suspect a child to be under the influence of any substance, contact will be made with parent/carer and arrangements will be made for the child to be collected. Guidance will be issued as to whether medical support is required. In such cases, the safety of a student is priority.
- Anything of concern found as part of a search will be confiscated and not returned to the pupil.
- Depending on what is found, Police may be informed.

Parents concerned about their child's access to drugs and / or alcohol can visit the ECLYPSE MANCHESTER website. Eclypse Manchester helps young people in Manchester who would like advice or support for their own, or someone else's drug or alcohol use.

<https://www.changegrowlive.org/eclipse/info>