



Drugs Misuse Statement 23/24

If drugs are reported to be in the possession of a pupil, then a search may be carried out. Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.

Where the person finds other substances, which are not believed to be controlled drugs these, can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs, schools are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police immediately, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols.
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number on CPOMS
- inform parents/carers
- inform social workers and parent school where applicable
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and multi-agency response.