

BROOKFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL

'Caring, Sharing and Learning Together'



Drugs Policy

Context of School

Brookfield Special School caters for pupils with Severe and Moderate Learning Difficulties and complex needs, whose ages range from 3 years to 17 years.

Definition of Drugs

Drugs are any substance (including alcohol, tobacco, over the counter and prescribed medication, 'legal highs', volatile substances and controlled drugs) which, when taken, effects the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

Rationale:

Brookfield recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture which exists.

Young children are exposed to messages about drug use from an early age. The messages they receive from television and the media tend to glamorise the use of drugs. They are likely to have seen parents or older brothers and sisters smoking, drinking or taking pills and medicines. Some children may have already tried alcohol or cigarettes and taken prescribed medicines or other drugs.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

Aims and Objectives:

- Brookfield's Special School acknowledge that drugs misuse impacts on all communities in Northern Ireland regardless of gender, cultural or social boundaries.
- Brookfield Special School will not tolerate the use of any drugs other than those which are prescribed or administered, with parental consent, by school staff for medical reasons. The following 'legal' drugs are not acceptable in school – volatile substances (glue, petrol, gas lighter fuel, correcting fluid etc.) 'poppers', magic mushrooms, cannabis, 'legal highs' alcohol and cigarettes. Use of any of these or any illicit drugs will result in disciplinary action being taken.
- Brookfield Special School will have a consistent approach to drugs education and managing incidents in line with Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies.
- There are clear protocols that Brookfield School would use in the event of a Drugs/substance abuse incident as identified in the Appendix.
- This policy will be reviewed on a 3 yearly cycle

Brookfield Special School Approach to Drugs

- Governors, staff, parents and carers have a duty of care towards all members of the Brookfield community. Any suspicions of drug or substance misuse should be reported to the designated teacher.
- A student who presents in school and appears to be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol will be subject to Appendix 3 of this policy.
- Parents/Carers who present in school and appear to be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol will not be permitted to take their son/daughter from school and may be reported to the PSNI if it is considered that the parent/carer may place others at risk or is suspected of being in possession of a 'controlled drug'
- Staff should not present in school under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If it is suspected that a member of staff is under the influence of drugs or alcohol they will not be permitted to take a class and advice may be sought from the Education Authority (EA). Staff may be reported to the PSNI if it is considered that the staff member may place others at risk or is suspected of being in possession of a controlled drug. Controlled drugs are identified in Appendix 1.

Roles and Responsibilities

As laid out in the Child Protection policy the parties below have responsibilities with regards to drugs/substance abuse in schools.

- Designated Teacher/ Deputy Designated Teacher
- Principal
- Board of Governors

Drugs Education

All members of the school community have a role to play in ensuring that drugs education is delivered to students of all ages. Students should be educated in the legal/health implications of substance/drug use and/or possession and supplying to enable them to make an informed choice.

Drugs education is seen as an important aspect of the school's curriculum. Students should be fully educated in the realities of substance/drug abuse in order to protect them from the harm associated with their use and misuse.

Parent/carer engagement is crucial in ensuring the success of drugs education.

Overview of Drugs Education

In Brookfield drugs education is part of the PDMU programmes. Assembly may form a part of this where appropriate. The approach to drugs education will be child centred and as such will be adapted to meet the needs of our children. This will be monitored and reviewed as part of the planning cycle.

Procedures for Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

A suspected drugs related incident includes:

- Inappropriate behaviour that may be drug related
- An allegation of a drugs related incident
- Possession of, possession with intent to and/or supply controlled drugs
- Possessing/finding drugs related paraphernalia

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, drug-related incidents will be dealt with as identified in the CEA/ Department of Education 2004 publication 'Drugs: guidance for schools in Northern Ireland' (See appendix 3 of this policy).

(This circular has been superseded by [Circular 2015/23 - Drugs guidance](#))

Parents/Carers will be expected to support the school in all disciplinary measures taken. The role of school personnel when dealing with drugs related incidents is clearly outlined in the issued guidance.

Confidentiality

As stated in Brookfield Special School's Child Protection Policy:

- Pupils cannot be guaranteed confidentiality when making a disclosure around drugs
- Brookfield Special School will pass on any information about suspected criminal activity associated with drugs to the designated teacher, PSNI and the Education Authority

Disciplinary or pastoral care responses

Brookfield Special School will make disciplinary decisions/ pastoral care responses on a case-by-case basis.

Provision of counselling service in school

School makes use of a counselling service as and when required.

Policy on Administration of Medicines

This available on request.

Emergency first aid procedures in relation to Drugs

Staff should be aware of procedures in the event of a medical emergency. (see Appendix 4)

Smoking on School Premises.

Brookfield Special School is a smoke free school. Staff, visitors and contractors are expected to adhere to the policy both in the school building and on the school grounds.

Students are not permitted to smoke during the school day – this includes after school clubs/activities e.g. the school formal, residentials, or when attending the learning community.

This smoking ban also includes all electronic cigarettes

Communicating Policy to Staff, Parent, Carers

This policy will be made available on request.

Training of Staff in Recognition of Drugs and their Symptoms

All teaching staff and assistants will receive training in the recognition of drugs and their symptoms as part of regular Child Protection Training. Parent training workshops are provided throughout the school year on a variety of topics.

Consultation and Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years all or if a drug related incident has occurred in school. Training for staff and Governors will be held annually along with Safeguarding training.

Appendix 1

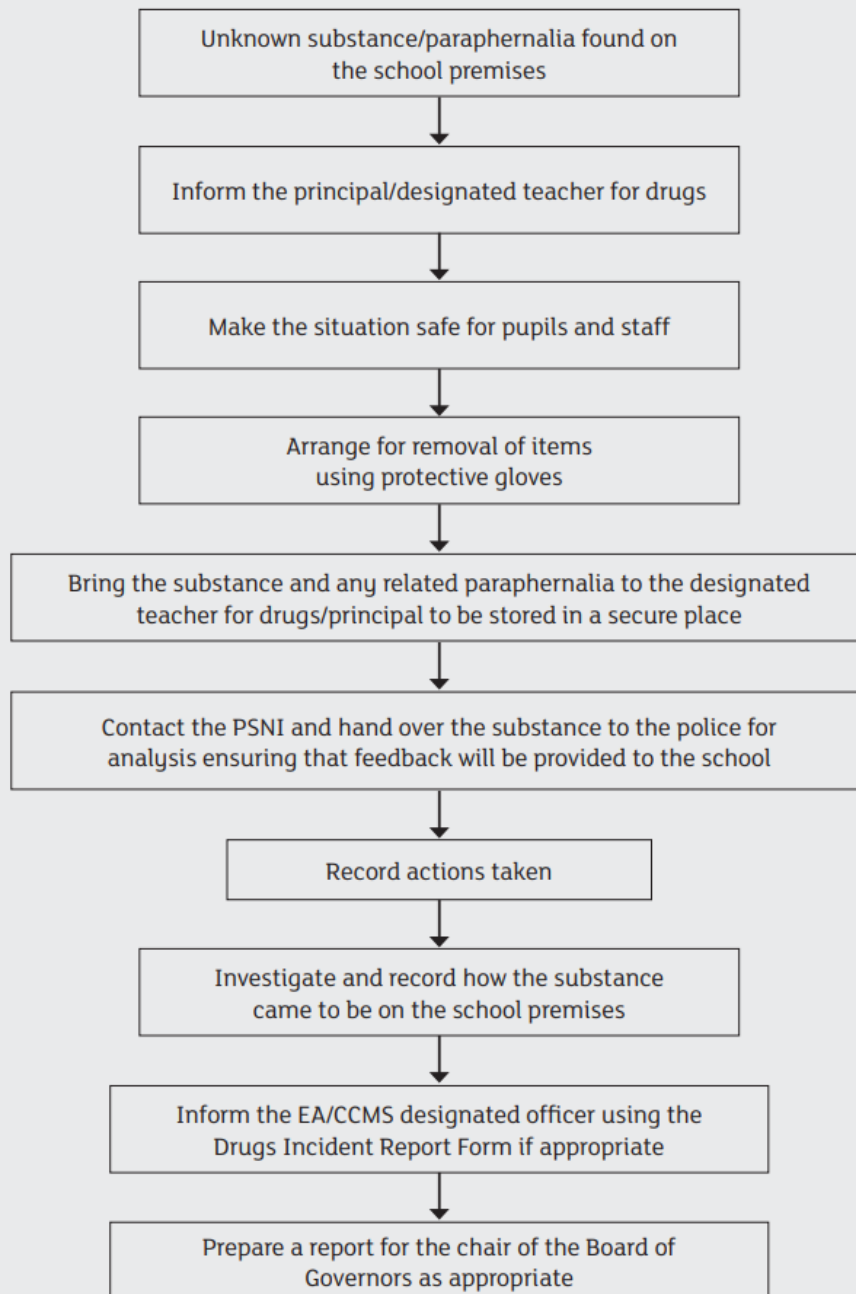
The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)

Class	Substance	Possession	Supply and production
A	Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth)	Up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both
B	Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (for example mephedrone or methoxetamine)	Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
C	Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), ketamine, piperazines (BZP)	Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
Temporary class substance*	NBOMe and Benzofuran compounds	None, but police can take away a suspected temporary class substance	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both

www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing

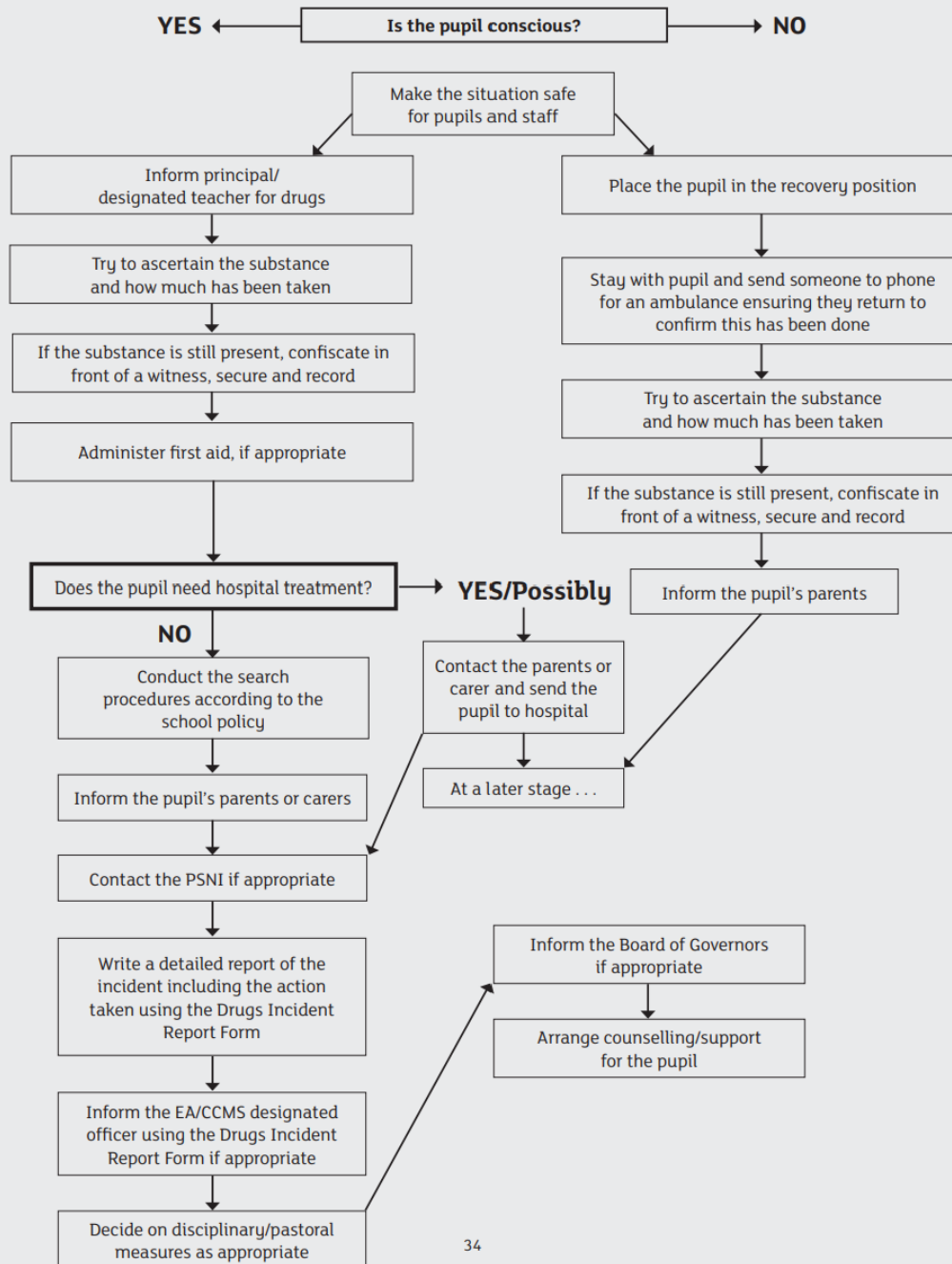
Appendix 2

Finding a suspected substance or drug-related paraphernalia on or close to the school premises



Appendix 3

4.2 Pupil suspected of having taken drugs/alcohol on school premises



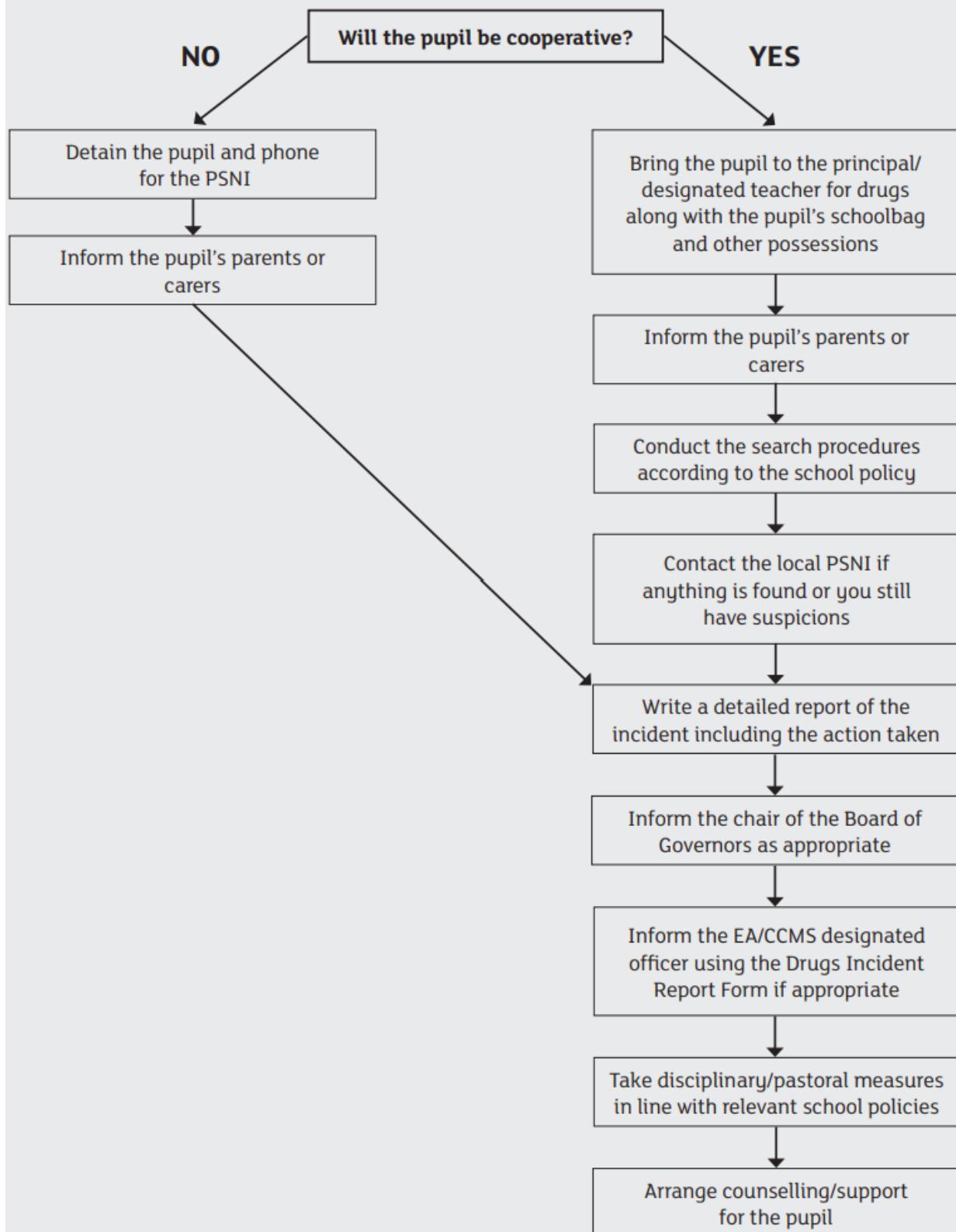
Appendix 4

Emergency Procedures

This is the current best advice on what to do if someone is in difficulty because of misusing drugs.

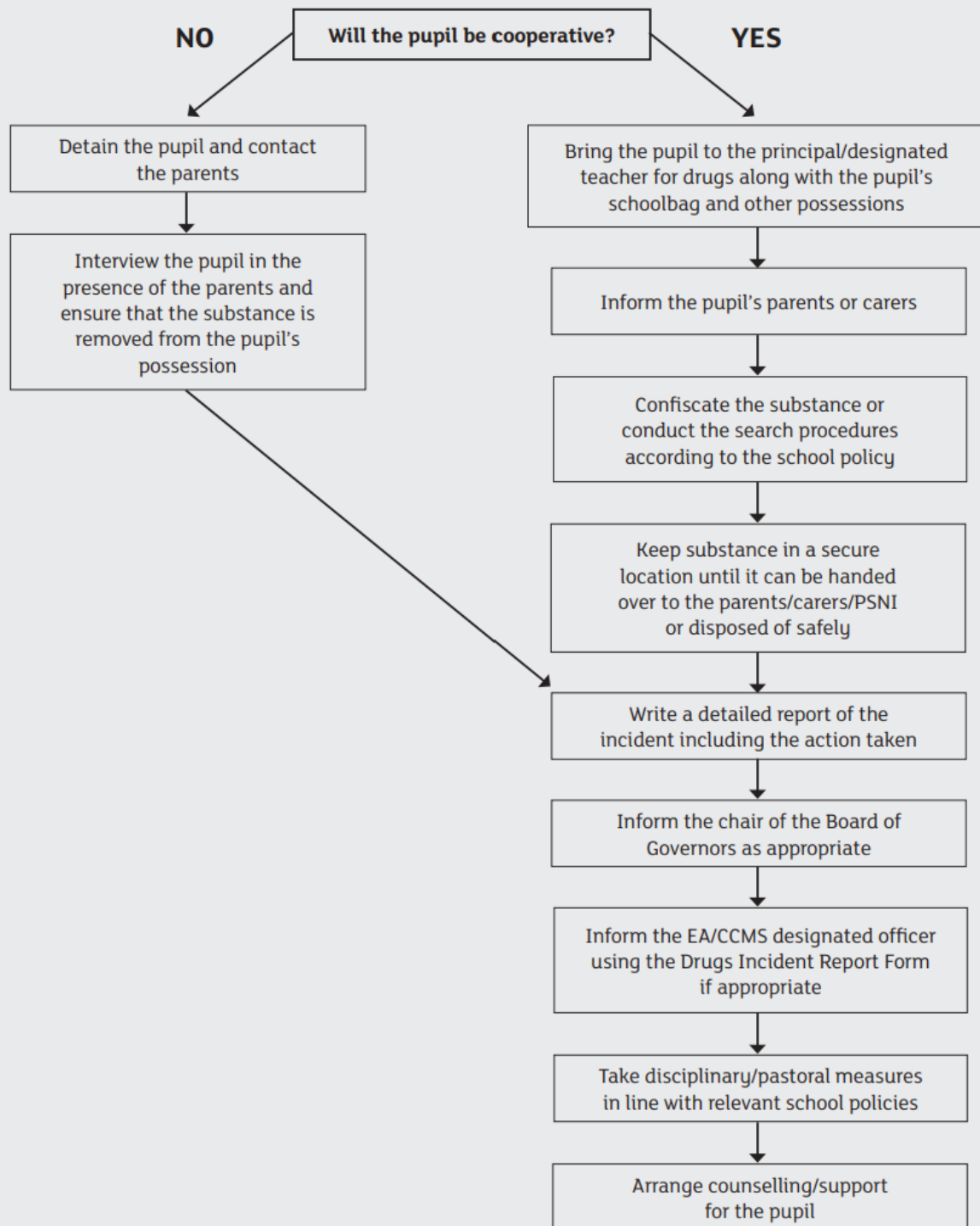
- It is important to find out what they have taken as this could affect emergency aid, for example it will help the ambulance crew. Loosen clothing and call for an ambulance immediately.
- If the person has taken a depressant substance, for example solvents, alcohol, sleeping pills or painkillers, it is likely that they will be drowsy or unconscious. If the person is drowsy, it is important to try to keep them awake by talking to them or applying a cool damp cloth or towel to the back of their neck. You should not give them anything to eat or drink as this could lead to vomiting or choking.
- If they are or become unconscious, put them into the recovery position, clear their airway if blocked and keep checking on any changes to pulse and breathing rates.
- If they stop breathing, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, starting with chest compressions. (If you have not been trained in CPR or are worried about giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a stranger, you can do chest compression-only (or hands-only) CPR). Stay with the person until the ambulance crew arrive and then tell them all the facts, including what the person has taken. This is very important as it could save his or her life.
- If the person has taken a stimulant, such as amphetamines (speed) or ecstasy, they may show various signs of distress. If the person is panicking, try to reassure them. It is important that they calm down and relax. Get them to breathe in and out, deeply and slowly. Help them by counting aloud slowly. If they start to hyperventilate – that is they can't control their breathing – ask them to breathe in and out of a paper (not a plastic) bag, if there is one available.
- If the person has taken a hallucinogen, such as LSD, magic mushrooms or cannabis in combination with ecstasy, they may become very anxious, distressed and fearful. They may act in an unusual way. It is very important to reassure the person – tell them that you will look after them, that they are in no danger, that it is the effects of the substance and that these will soon wear off. You may want to take them to a quiet place, keep other people away and continue to reassure them. Just stay with them and talk calmly to them until the ambulance arrives.

4.3 Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance



Appendix 6

4.4 Pupil in possession of alcohol or unauthorised prescribed medication on the school premises



Appendix 7

4.5 A parent or carer arrives at school to collect a child and appears to be under the influence of alcohol or another substance

