



Drugs Education Policy

INTRODUCTION

Rationale

As part of our caring pastoral support system in Dromintee PS we recognise the importance of tackling the issues of drug misuse. Children need help to equip themselves with the skills to deal with a drug - orientated society. The development of self-esteem is a major part of drug education and helps them to maintain a healthy attitude towards drugs. Drug education in the primary school provides a forum for pupils to learn about drugs and build foundations for a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs Definitions

A drug is any substance which, when taken, alters the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

Illegal drugs:

are those substances listed as controlled drugs; such as cannabis, LSD, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine.

Illicit drugs:

include socially unacceptable legal drugs e.g. poppers, solvents, magic mushrooms and underage consumption of alcohol and 'tobacco- related' products.

Prescription drugs:

are those which are issued on prescription by the doctor such as antibiotic's, tranquillisers, inhalers and Ritalin

DENI – Drugs guidance for schools in Northern Ireland (Revised edition 2015)

Aims

As a school we recognise the importance of tackling the issue of drug misuse (including volatile substances) and shall endeavour to:

- a) Provide the children with a safe and drug free working environment;
- b) actively deliver a drug prevention programme;
- c) provide a caring pastoral support system;
- d) co-operate with all law enforcing and health agencies in combating the problem;
- e) inform parents about and encourage them to support the school's policy

Roles

The Role of the Individual Staff Member (teaching and non-teaching), including all ancillary staff.

- Should have necessary knowledge and expertise to deliver Drug Education
- It is not their responsibility to determine the circumstances surrounding a suspected drugs-related incident but they should deal with any emergency procedures.
- Should forward any information, substance and paraphernalia should be forwarded to the designated teacher.
- Should complete a brief factual report which should be forwarded to the designated teacher for drugs.
- Must write a factual report based on the incident and forward this to the Principal.

The Role of the Designated Teacher for Drugs (a member of senior management)

- Should oversee and co-ordinate the planning of the curricular provision and liaise with the staff responsible for pastoral care
- Should co-ordinate the school's procedures for handling suspected drugs related incidents.
- Should be responsible for the training and induction of these procedures with new and existing staff.
- Should take responsibility for the possession of any substances or associated paraphernalia found in the event of a suspected incident.
- Must write a factual report based on the incident and forward this to Principal.

The Role of the Principal

- Should ensure that policies and procedures designed to promote good behaviour and discipline are pursued at the school.
- To consult with pupils and their parents before deciding on measures to encourage good behaviour.
- In the case of misuse of drugs, the principal determines the circumstances of all incidents, contacts parents and police if necessary and keeps Boards of Governors fully informed.
- Reports to be written and sent to designated officer at CCMS.
- Review procedures and amend if necessary.

The Role of Governors

- Should be aware of the drug education information given to pupils by the school.
- Should understand the provision of confidential non-judgmental drugs counselling provided by the school.
- Should understand the legal responsibility in context of the school's Drugs Policy and Education Programme including consultative process, publishing of policy and review procedures.
- Designate a Governor for drugs.

Article 3 of the Education (N.I) Order 1998 and amended by Article 19 of the Education and Libraries (N.I) Order 2003 stipulates that school principals and Boards of Governors must ensure that policies and procedures designed to promote good behaviour and discipline are pursued at school and should consult pupils and their parents before deciding on measures to encourage good behaviour.

The Role of the Pupils

- Should have access to drug information and education.
- Should be able to speak in confidence to a member of staff about drugs related problems.
- Should understand that drugs must not be brought into school for any reason and that disciplinary action will be taken immediately.

The Role of Parents

- Should be aware of the drugs education policy and how the teaching will be carefully matched to the age and maturity of the pupils concerned.
- Should be aware and support the School Policy on positive behaviour with regard to drugs.
- Should be aware of the advice from support –providing agencies and their roles.

Management of Drugs

Procedures for Handling Suspected Incidents of Drug Misuse by a pupil

It is important that all staff should be able to recognise the point at which a young person becomes a danger, either to himself or herself to others and that there are appropriate measures in place to deal with the situation:- the duty of PROTECTION.

These guidelines are based on the fundamental principle that schools act “in loco parentis” and so their primary concern must be the well-being and welfare of all the pupils in charge.

If illegal substances are found on the school premises the Principal **must** inform the PSNI.

Managing an incident.

Individual Staff Member

- Assess situation and decide action.
- Send for additional staff and secure first aid.
- Make situation safe for all
- Carefully gather up any drugs etc. and pass all information to the designated teacher
- Brief factual report to be written and forwarded to designated teacher.

Designated Teacher for Drugs

- Respond to first aiders advice/recommendations regarding the incident;
- Inform principal
- Take responsibility for pupil

Principal

- Determine the circumstances surrounding the incident;
- Ensure that the following people are informed:
 - Parents/Guardians
 - Board Of Governors
 - Community and Schools Involvement Officer in local PSNI District Command Unit
 - Designated CCMS Officer
- Agree pastoral and disciplinary responses including counselling services/support;
- Report to be forwarded to Board of Governors and CCMS Officer.
- Review procedures and amend if necessary.

In exceptional circumstances, the police may interview a pupil on premises, with the principal's agreement and presence. Parents will be contacted prior to this happening and will be requested to attend.

Signs of Drug Misuse

There are a number of warning signs which indicate that a pupil is misusing drugs. See Appendix 10 of CEA "drugs: guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland".

Pastoral Care and Support for Pupils at Risk

Where a pupil has been identified by the school as having experimented with illegal drugs, or as being at risk of doing so, he or she should be offered appropriate counselling and support within the school's general arrangements for pastoral care of its pupils and parents should be informed.

A Range of Disciplinary Measures

It is *illegal* for pupils to be in possession of a controlled drug. The police and the courts differentiate between cases of possession, possession with intent to supply and the supply of controlled drugs, so should schools. The school will adhere to the Child Protection and Safeguarding policies together with the Positive Behaviour policy throughout.

At all times the needs of individual pupils will be considered and appropriate interventions and support mechanisms put in place, whilst taking account of the pupils health and wellbeing.

If a parent or guardian is suspected to be under the influence of drugs the school's safeguarding child protection procedures will be followed.

If a staff member is suspected to be under the influence of drugs the school's code of conduct for staff will be followed.

Confidentiality

Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to pupils. Any criminal activity disclosed must be passed on to the designated teacher, police and EA/CCMS.

Emergency First Aid Procedures

In the event of a substance abuse, the school shall obtain medical help and contact the parent. The school will also keep a record and evidence for the doctor.



Overview of DPS Drugs Education Programme

The following outline is not prescriptive but rather is a starting point for teachers' own thinking according to the needs of their pupils. This also illustrates the link between the development of knowledge and understanding, skills, attitudes and values.

Knowledge and Understanding Foundation Stage & Key Stage One

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Basic information about how the body works, what goes into the body, and ways of looking after the body?	Basic information about how the body works, what goes into the body, and ways of looking after the body	Basic information about how the body works, what goes into the body, and ways of looking after the body	Basic information about how the body works, what goes into the body, and ways of looking after the body
Safe and unsafe substances used in the home and school and simply safety rules.	Safe and unsafe substances used in the home and school and simply safety rules.	Safe and unsafe substances used in the home and school and simply safety rules.	Safe and unsafe substances used in the home and school and simply safety rules.
Medicines and tablets, the reasons people use them, simple safety rules and school rules.	Medicines and tablets, the reasons people use them, simple safety rules and school rules.	Medicines and tablets, the reasons people use them, simple safety rules and school rules.	Medicines and tablets, the reasons people use them, simple safety rules and school rules.
People who can help pupils when they have questions and concerns.	People who can help pupils when they have questions and concerns.	People through their work handle medicines and drugs eg. Health professionals, chemists,	People through their work handle medicines and drugs eg. Health professionals, chemists,
		People who can help pupils when they have questions and Concerns.	People who can help pupils when they have questions and concerns.
			Introduction to the drugs which pupils may encounter and an understanding that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly.

Ongoing whole school termly NSPCC Keeping Safe programmes themes.

All skills, attitudes and values should be inherent throughout the curriculum in all years in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.

Skills

Personal likes and dislikes.

Being friends with others

Communicating feelings and concerns about illness and taking medicines.

Following simple safety instructions. For example, actions which pupils need to take to keep themselves and others safe.

When and how to get help from adults.

Knowing how and why to say "NO".

Attitudes and Values

Respect and caring for oneself and valuing the uniqueness of one's own body.

Respect and caring for others.

Realising that it is sometimes appropriate and important to say "NO".

Realising that adults or older children are not always "friends".

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Skills ,Attitudes and Values
More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to keep it healthy.	More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to keep it healthy.	More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to keep it healthy.	Skills Personal strengths and weaknesses. Handling social relationships. Expressing and communicating ideas, feelings and concerns about drugs and their use.
School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and other drugs.	School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and other drugs.	School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and other drugs.	Identifying risks. Coping with peer influences. Communicating with adults. Making informed and healthy choices and knowing the consequences of actions. Keeping safe; giving and getting help.
People who can help pupils when they have questions and concerns.	People who can help pupils when they have questions and concerns.	People who can help pupils when they have questions and concerns.	Attitudes and values Valuing oneself and other people.
Dangers from handling discarded drugs-related equipment.	Dangers from handling discarded drugs-related equipment.	Dangers from handling discarded drugs-related equipment.	Attitudes and beliefs about different drugs, the people who use/misuse them and why they use them.
	Identifying and understanding pressures and influences.	Identifying and understanding pressures and influences.	Responses to media and advertising presentations of medicines, alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs.
	Caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs pupils are likely to encounter, their general effects on the body and on behaviour and the associated risks of drug-taking.	People who might persuade pupils to take drugs including friends, known adults, peers, older children, stereotypical images.	Parent'/ guardian's and teachers' reactions to drugs and their use.
	Simple first aid.	Consideration of why some people take drugs.	Attitudes towards the use of alcohol and tobacco within the home and the wider society.
		Simple first aid.	

Ongoing whole school termly NSPCC Keeping Safe programme themes.

Key Stage 2 Knowledge and understanding

Active Learning Approaches

In our Drugs Education Programme, a variety of teaching approaches will be used so that the children's interest is kept. Through these approaches the child is in control of his/her own learning therefore they are no longer a recipient of, but a participant in, the learning process. The teacher takes on the role of facilitator rather than controller as through the planned programme the teacher will be encouraging the children to discuss and come up with information and ideas that can be explored. Some of the approaches used in the programme are:

Whole class/group/individual activities

Thought shower

Buzz groups

Debates

Discussion

Circle Time

Drama

Energisers

Ice-breakers

Role-play

Teaching /learning

Videos

Visitors

Resources

The resources used for Drugs Education Programme will utilise a variety of the above strategies. Resources will be suitable for target age range and will reflect the aims and objectives of the school's drug education programme. PDMU Living Learning Together, NSPCC Keeping Safe, Love for Life

Guidelines for administering prescribed medication

In Dromintee PS we follow the guidelines in the DE publication 'Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs'. Parents must give written permission on a dedicated form and all medicines administered/supervised are documented.

Communicating with Stakeholders

This policy will be shared with staff at the CPD session and training will be provided. Communication with parents will be via the school website and school information packs, and with Governors at a face-to-face meeting the training will be combined with Child Protection training. Pupils will be involved through curricular activities.

Local Organisations

A list of local organisations that provide information and advice and/or resources about drugs

www.mindingyourhead.info

www.fasaonline.org

www.talktofrank.com

www.thesite.org/drinkanddrugs

www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Pages/Topics.aspx

Appendices all taken from 'Drugs Guidance for Schools in NI 2015' Pages 33-39

Appendix 1 Finding a suspected substance or drug-related paraphernalia on or close to the school premises

Appendix 2 Pupil suspected of having taken drugs/alcohol on school premises

Appendix 3 Pupil suspected of possessing /distributing an illegal substance

Appendix 4 Pupil in possession of alcohol or unauthorised prescribed medication on the school premises

Appendix 5 A parent/carer arrives at school to collect a child and appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other substance.

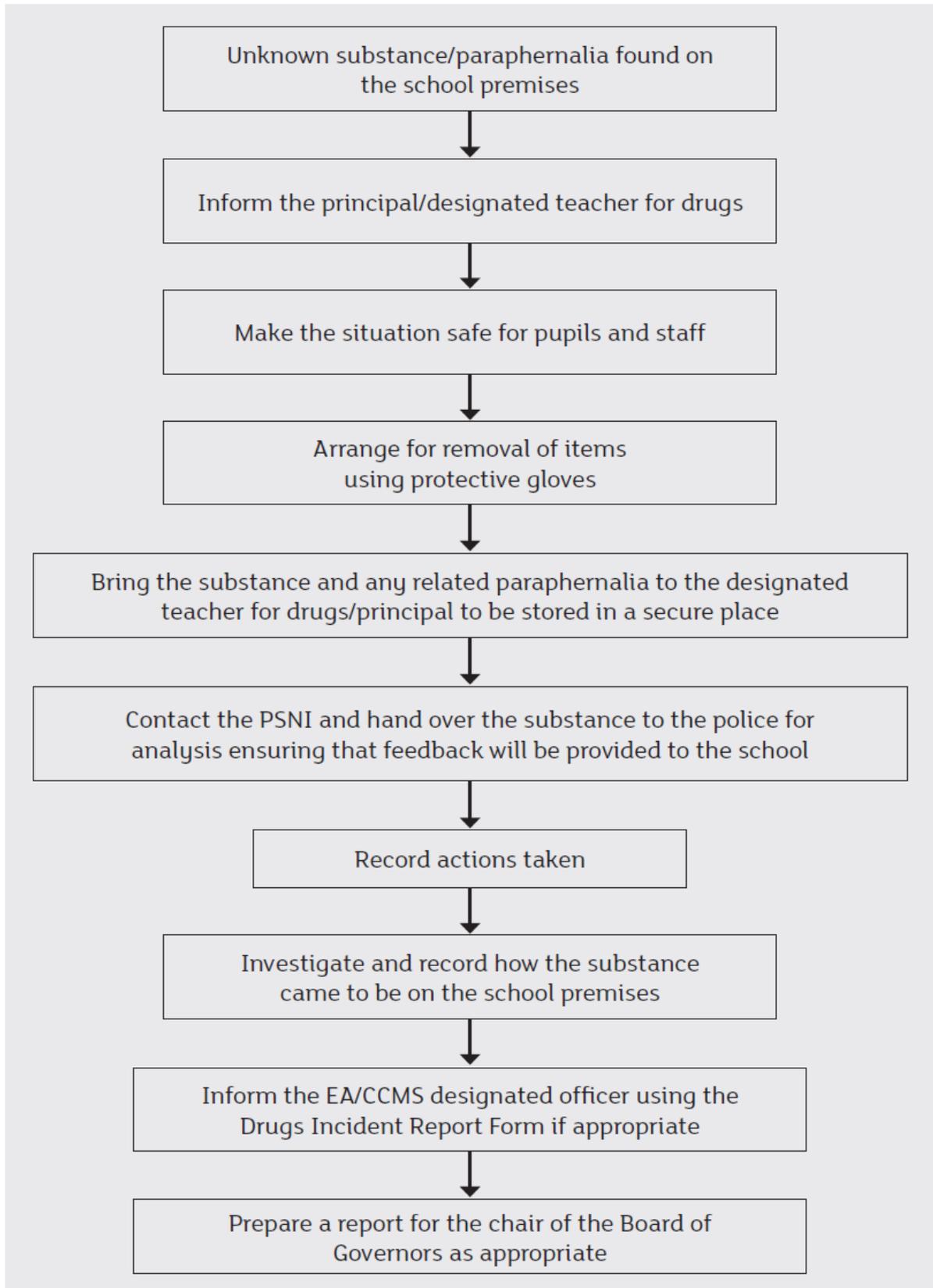
Appendix 6 Drugs Incident Support Form

This policy will be reviewed and updated in line with DE requirements and/or after a drugs related incident.

November 2022

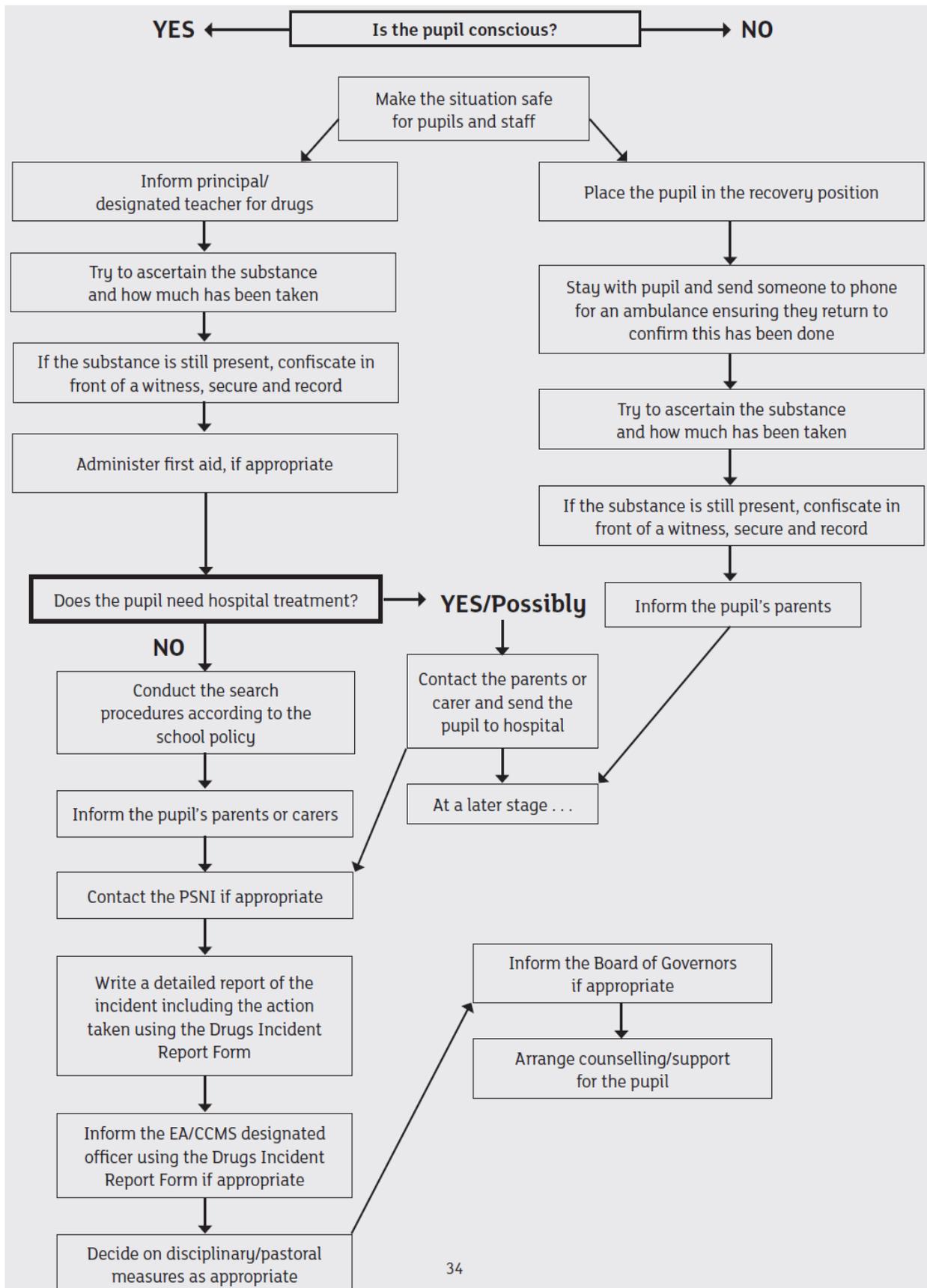
Appendix 1

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



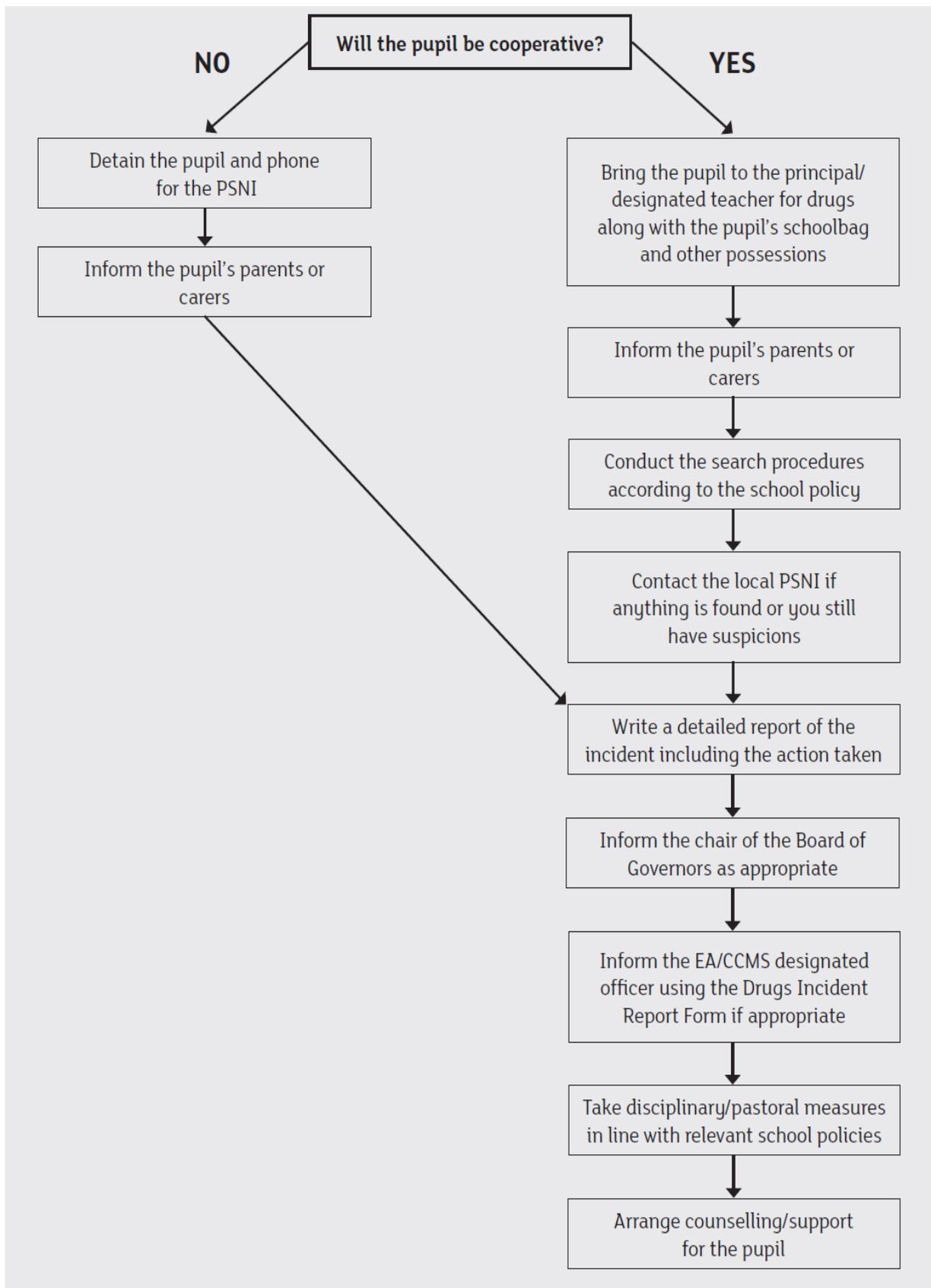
Appendix 2

Pupil suspected of having taken drugs/alcohol on school premises



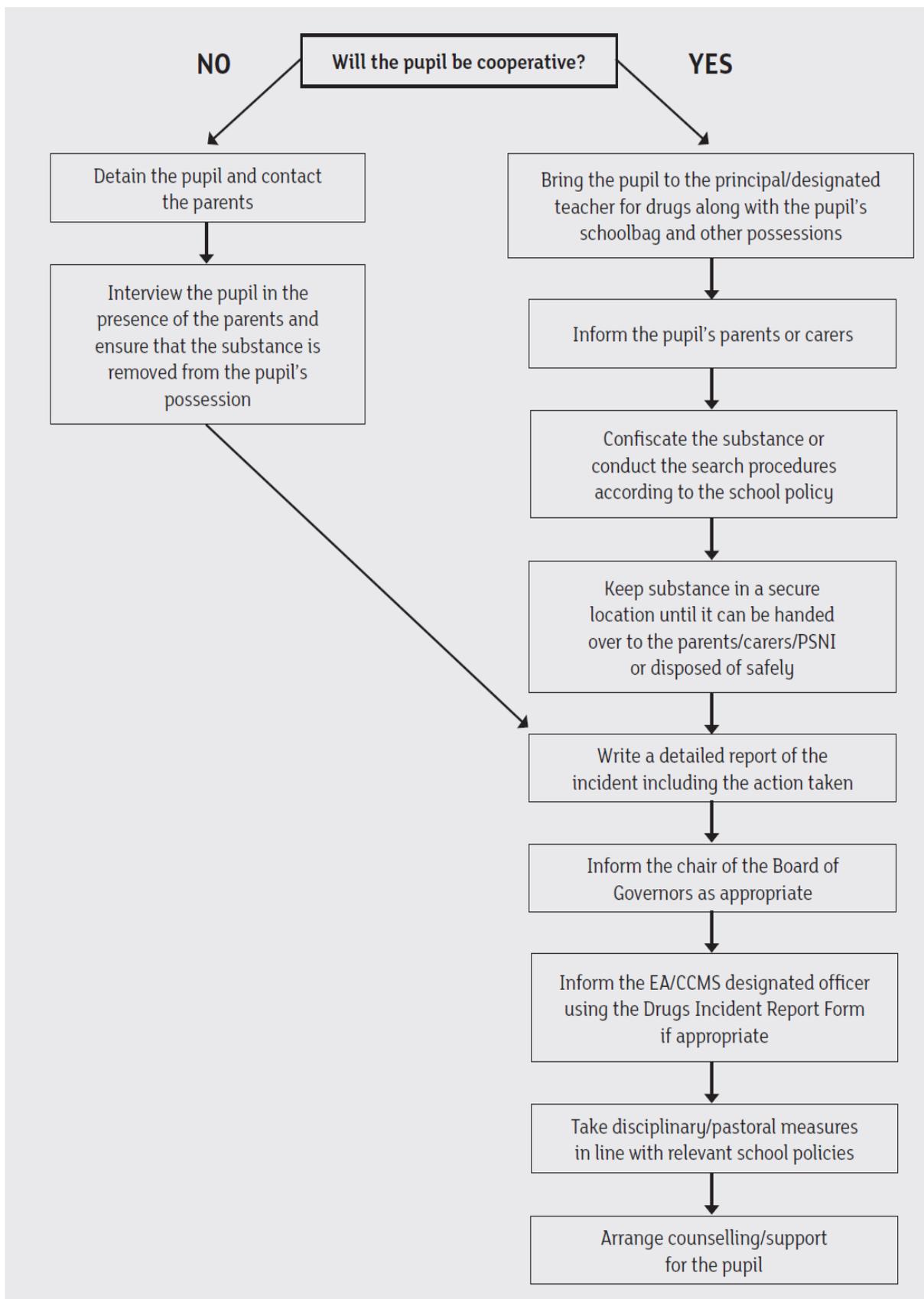
Appendix 3

Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance



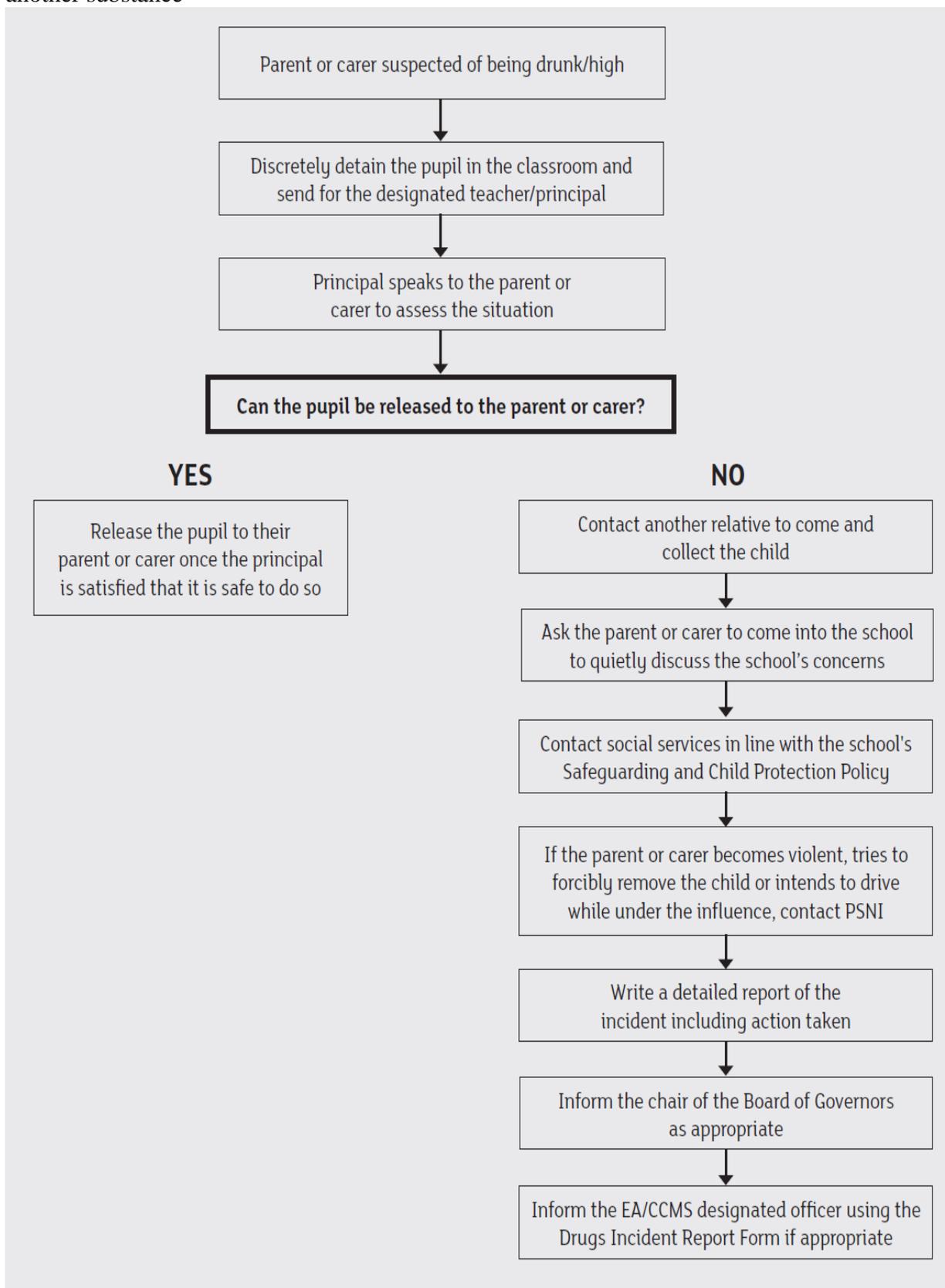
Appendix 4

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



Appendix 5

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



Dromintee Primary School Drugs Incident Report Form



1.	Name of Pupil _____ DOB _____ Address _____ _____
2.	Date of Incident _____ Reported by _____ Time of Incident _____ Location of Incident _____ _____
3.	First Aid given YES/NO Administered by _____ Ambulance/Doctor Called YES/NO Time of Call _____
4.	Parent or carer informed YES/NO Date _____ Time _____
5.	Where substance is retained _____ or Date substance destroyed or passed to PSNI _____ Time _____
6.	PSNI informed YES/NO Date _____ Time _____
7.	Education Authority or CCMS Designated Officer informed, as appropriate YES/NO Date _____ Time _____
8.	Form completed by _____ Date _____ Position _____

