

# Safer Schools Partnership

Drug Law Awareness

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

PS Ian Turner  
PC Hayley Keyes



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# Facts about drugs & crime

- The age of criminal responsibility is 10
- A person with a criminal record will have reduced opportunities in life
- Changes in drugs legislation still means that it is an offence to possess cannabis
- Police have powers to stop and search for controlled drugs
- If you give a controlled drug to another person to use you have 'supplied it'
- Cannabis is a Class B drug (26/01/2009)



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# The Law – Class A

- Arrestable offence for possession, with up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
- Supply and production, up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both



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# The Law – Class B

- Arrestable offence for possession, up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
- Penalty for supply of cannabis and all Class B drugs is up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
- Possession - first offence warning, second offence £90.00 fine, third offence arrest



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# Penalty

The penalty will depend on:

- the class and quantity of drug
- where the person and drugs were found
- personal history (crimes & drug offences)
- other aggravating or mitigating factors



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# Penalties for Drug Offences

## Class A

Possession



Up to 7 years in prison  
or an unlimited fine or  
both

Supply



Up to LIFE in prison  
or an unlimited fine or  
both

## Class B

Possession



Up to 5 years in prison  
or an unlimited fine or  
both

Supply



Up to 14 years in prison or an  
unlimited fine or  
both

## Class C

Possession



Up to 2 years in prison  
or an unlimited fine or  
both

Supply



Up to 14 years in prison or an  
unlimited fine or  
both

# Cannabis Reclassification

- Cannabis reclassified from Class C to Class B drug (26/01/2009)
- Reflects the fact that skunk, a much stronger version of the drug, now dominates the UK's cannabis market
- More robust enforcement against cannabis supply and possession



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# Arrestable Offence

- Smoked in public view
- Repeated offending
- Local Policing Problem
- Protect Young People
- Young People i.e 17 years and under
- Possession by vulnerable person Officers may arrest persons in possession inside or in the vicinity or premises frequented by young people



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# Youth Offenders

- The majority of children or young people found in possession of cannabis will be arrested
- There may be partnership agreements, e.g pupil in school where there are alternatives to arrest
- Case disposal – NFA, Reprimand, Final Warning or Charge
- Reprimand/Final Warning – does not constitute a criminal conviction record. It is a police record and may be cited in court. If asked by a potential employer or any other person in an official capacity the person must disclose this police record if within certain time periods



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# Youth Offenders

- Some sensitive occupations require a persons complete offending history to be disclosed even though the period has been spent
- A reprimand or final warning remains on the Police National Computer for 5 years or until 18 years of age; whichever is longer
- Receiving a reprimand or final warning means not having to attend a court hearing
- Charge – possible court hearing



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# Under 18

If your under 18, the police are allowed to tell your parent, guardian or carer that you have been caught with drugs



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# Support & Advice

Support & advice is available via the school

Talk to FRANK: <http://.talktofrank.com>



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