



Achievement for all

Substance Use and Misuse Policy

Adopted/Reviewed: February 2019

Date of Next Review: February 2020

Signed:
(Head Teacher)

Date:

Signed:
(Chair of Governors)

Date:

Substance Use and Misuse Policy

Definition

By drugs we mean any substances, excluding food, which, when used brings about change in the user. Changes can include altered perceptions, feelings, moods and behaviour. Drugs can thus include medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents used as drugs, 'legal highs', 'poppers' and illegal substances including, for example, cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, heroin and cocaine. This broad definition recognises that whilst some drugs may be regarded as helpful, (e.g. medicines) and some perceived as 'socially acceptable', all of them have the potential to be harmful.

The School's Stance towards Drugs

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, by members of the school, nor the illegal supply or possession of these substances
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward
- The school follows Local Authority and national guidance
- The school has a zero policy on drugs and drug use. If a student brings illegal substances onto school site they will be permanently excluded

Drug Education Programme

"We live in a world/society/community where drugs of all descriptions are available and accessible from medicines, tobacco and alcohol to substances which are illegal. We recognise that the choices and decisions that individuals make about the role of any drugs in their lives result in consequences not only for themselves but also for families, friends and the wider community.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its students the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Education of every student.

Fundamental to our School's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents/carers, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills
- to provide accurate information about substances
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse, i.e. health, social, legal and economic
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught and informal curriculum we deliver in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHCE, delivered in tutorial time, Science, Geography and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in tutorial sessions and other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with appropriate outside agencies such as Community Police, Compass, LEA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. Visitors who support the school will be informed of the values held within this policy.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Roles of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LEA and appropriate outside agencies.

The Headteacher or a Senior Teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LEA and County solicitors to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

Training and education for teachers, support staff, parents/carers, governors and others will be provided by the school using appropriate agencies thus enabling staff to identify potential risks for drug related incidents and manage them confidently, competently and with consistency.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Achievement Inclusion Team will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of the policy.

The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school, i.e.

- The Governors' committee will review any fixed term exclusions of more than five days in total in any term or if the student loses the chance of taking a public examination. The parents/carers have a right of appeal to the Governors' Staff and Student Appeals Sub-committee
- The Governors' disciplinary committee will review any permanent exclusion. The parents/carers may make representation to the LEA
- The Governing Body will monitor, review and evaluate the Policy on Substance Use and Misuse

The Transition Leader and Assistant Headteacher have responsibility for co-ordinating the drug education programme.

Substance misuse on the premises

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other school members and the local community. The following examples are included as guiding principles. Records will be kept of all incidents on individual students' files.

(This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of possible situations.)

Situation

Student smoking (tobacco, e-cigarette) on or near school premises:

Action

- Letter home to parents (Yr7-11)
- Students may be isolated during investigations
- After school detention issued

Situation

Students suspected having tobacco or e-cigarette on their person:

Action

- Student will be searched
- Students may be isolated during investigations
- If any items found parents will be notified
- Sanction such as after school detention/isolation/internal exclusion will be issued if repeat offenders

Situation

Unsubstantiated rumour regarding drug misuse or student identified as having experimented with illegal drugs or the equipment associated with drugs:

Action

- Students involved will be searched
- Peers and other staff will be interviewed
- Students may be isolated during the investigations
- School will contact parents during or after their investigations
- Student/parent/carer to be offered advice, information, support, and counselling as appropriate with a possible Compass referral

Situation

Student seen in possession or strongly suspected of being in possession of an illegal drug:

Action

- Students involved will be searched (NB the law permits school staff to take temporary possession of any substance suspected of being a controlled drug)
- Peers and other staff will be interviewed
- Student may be isolated whilst this is being investigated
- Parents/carer will be informed
- Police will be called to deal with the situation - Police will carry out a search if needed
- Any substance taken into temporary possession by school should be handed to the Police who will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug
- If an illegal drug is found, Police advice on the situation will be closely considered
- Situation may result in an external or permanent exclusion
- Student/parent/carer to be offered advice, information, support, counselling or Compass referral as appropriate

Situation

Student seen supplying or strongly suspected of supplying an illegal drug:

Action

- As for possession above
- Student may be isolated during investigation
- Situation may result in an external or permanent exclusion
- Student/parent/carer to be offered advice, information, support, counselling or Compass referral as appropriate

Situation

Student is found under the influence of drugs:

Action

- First Aid administered/ambulance called
- Gather information from peers and staff
- Some students may be isolated during the investigation
- Student search or search of students involved may be required
- Collect any vomit in a phytoene bag and hand to ambulance/paramedics
- Parents informed
- Incident report to Police and discussed with them
- Situation may result in a fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion
- Student/parent/carer to be offered advice, information, support, counselling and compass referral as appropriate

Situation

Illegal drugs or equipment associated with drugs found on the premises:

Action

- School will inform the Police
- Internal investigation/enquiry with students and staff
- Students may be isolated during investigation
- Student search or search of students involved may be required
- Parents/carer informed
- Situation may result in a fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion
- Student/parent/carer to be offered advice, information, support, counselling and compass referral as appropriate

Situation

School made aware of possible illegal drug misuse outside school premises which may put student at risk:

Action

- Student search or search of students involved may be required
- Students maybe isolated during investigation
- School will inform Police
- School may inform parents and make a Compass referral