



EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is two-fold:

1. To inform all members of the school community about how drug education is delivered to students.
2. To inform all members of the school community about how drug-related incidents are dealt with.

As a school we have the interests and well-being of all students at heart and we recognise that the use of many drugs, including medicine, tobacco, and alcohol is commonplace and that an increasing number of young people are being exposed to the availability and hype surrounding illegal drugs.

We define a drug as a substance that, when administered to the body, brings about change. This could include altering moods, feeling or behaviours, changing perceptions or the way in which the body functions. Drugs, in our understanding, include medicines, tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances (solvents), “poppers” and illegal substances such as cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD and heroin.

This broad definition encompasses drugs that may generally be regarded as being helpful, e.g. medicines, some that are “socially acceptable”, e.g. alcohol and others that are illegal. However, all have the potential to be harmful.

Educating about Drugs

We are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our members and will take action to promote and safeguard their well-being. We will seek to achieve this by providing students with the relevant drug education in lessons and through PSHE time and drop down days. It will also be achieved by the manner in which we intend to deal with drug related incidents.

A planned and progressive curriculum in PSHE means that knowledge and understanding is developed at age appropriate times, students learn the risks, laws, how to manage pressure and how to seek support.

We recognise that, along with parents and others, the school can enable young people to understand how drugs can benefit and harm individuals and communities. Our school PSHE and drop down days, in which work about drugs is included, will seek to:

- a. Enable young people to make responsible, healthy, informed choices about the role drugs might play in their lifestyle, by acquiring sound information, exploring attitudes and values and by developing effective decision-making and communication skills.
- b. Promote the self-esteem and sense of self-worth of every individual student irrespective of their academic abilities.

- c. Increase awareness and understanding of possible legal, social, economic and health consequences arising from the use and misuse of drugs.
- d. Enable students to identify sources of appropriate support.

These aims will be met through the programmes of study within the taught curriculum, especially within Science, PE, RE and PSHE. They will also be met through the informal curriculum and drop down days. Where anyone from outside the school contributes to the programme of work they will do so in accordance with this policy and in line with the LA Guidelines for Outside Providers.

Roles and Responsibilities around Drug Education

- Headteacher - ultimately responsible for policy, content and implementation; liaison with governors, parents, teachers, LA and other relevant bodies.
- Governors - general responsibility for the curricular, pastoral and disciplinary aspects of the school. Support for drug-related in-service training and resources. Every effort will be made to enable governors to raise their own level of awareness and understanding of drug issues.
- Teaching Staff – responsible for drug education as a form tutor or as a teacher of specific subjects where drug education forms part of the syllabus. Teacher led drug education also avoids the situation whereby drugs are sensationalised and seen by students as something teachers cannot talk about. Teachers will be consulted about the school's approach to drug education and aided in their work by provision of resources, support and advice from experienced members of staff and access to appropriate training.
- Non-teaching staff – may be involved in a supportive role in some drug education lessons and also play an important, informal pastoral support role with students.

Drug Related Incidents and the Management of Drugs

We do not condone the misuse of drugs by any member of the school community, nor the illegal supply of drugs.

Any drug related incident will be considered on an individual basis with due regard to balancing the interests of any individual involved with those of the wider school community. Examples of responses to drug related incidents vary from a reprimand to being reported to the police, from being offered advice and support to being excluded from school.

In dealing with incidents the following will be taken into account:

- Confidentiality. Schools cannot offer total confidentiality to students but as far as is possible we will ensure that information provided is treated carefully and sensitively. The provider of any information will always be told what use is being made of it and their consent sought.
- Police contact. There is no legal obligation on a school to contact the police. However, in any case of an alleged supply of a controlled drug the police will be informed. In other cases the school will determine whether to involve the police. It is a matter for the police if further action follows. Police will not normally interview students on school premises without either a parent knowing or being present. In the event of them doing so, then a senior member of the school staff will be present.

- Parents. Although there is no legal obligation on the school to inform parents if their son/daughter is involved in a drug related incident, the school will normally contact parents as soon as is reasonably practicable. We would expect to work with parents and the individual student to successfully resolve any problems.
- Drugs on premises/persons. If drugs, (excluding medicines) are found on premises or on individuals the drugs should be seized and secured by the teacher or other adult member of staff finding them. The incident should be reported to the appropriate Senior Leader who may inform the police and request them to remove the drugs.

The influence which adults, including teachers, non-teachers, parents and others can have on young people cannot be underestimated. Presenting young people with clear, unequivocal role models that are consistent with what we teach in schools is essential. The actions of a positive role model include:

- Not smoking on school premises or at school gates.
- Not smoking in face to face situations with young people.
- Not smoking on school transport including private cars where other people's children are passengers.
- Being alcohol free whilst caring for young people either in or out of school on any activity for which the school is responsible.
- Ensuring that, by reason of medication or other drug use, we are not impaired in carrying out our responsibilities as parents, teachers or governors.

The support of all in promoting such role models is encouraged and welcomed.

Where students are required to take medicines during the school day or on school trips, this is managed by following the procedures set out in the Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy.

The Education and Management of Drugs Policy applies to all staff, parents, governors, volunteers and students, when they are involved with any aspect of school life for which they are assuming a duty of care for students. It therefore extends beyond the classroom into extra-curricular activities.

Full Governing Body – May 2021
Date of next review: May 2024