



Drugs & Incidents Policy

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Ratified by <i>Governors</i> :	Delegated to Head Teacher

This policy reflects DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012). It is consistent with our Safeguarding Policy and practice. Effective communication with families is essential for the successful implementation of this policy. We note that whilst a minority of pupils and adults do misuse drugs, most are choosing not to misuse substances and we will continue to support their differing needs.

The terms 'drugs' used in this document refers to all drugs that are unauthorised on school premises:

- Medicines
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Illegal drugs
- New psychoactive substances ("legal highs")

Medicines are only legitimately allowed in school if they have been authorised by the Head Teacher. Details of the management of medicines can be found in the school's Management of Medicines Policy.

Policy on Drug Education

Our school believes in the right of every child to a broad and balanced curriculum and education programmes that equip them with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to make healthy and informed decisions about their lives, now and in the future. As part of our duty to promote pupils' wellbeing, we have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of our pastoral responsibilities. The school believes health education is a vital part of the personal and social development of every pupil. In response to shared concerns at a local and national level, and as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a responsibility to inform and educate children about drugs and the role of medicines. We aim to challenge stereotypes when we are exploring attitudes towards drug use and drug users, and when exploring media and social influences. These aims are fulfilled within the taught curriculum and through opportunities within informal and extra-curricular activities.

Drug education is a component of the PSHE curriculum and incorporates the statutory elements from the Science curriculum. Those staff teaching PSHE use a variety of interactive and participatory teaching methods to enhance learning. We promote a 'listening' culture in school and see this as an important part of our safeguarding role, actively encouraging children to ask questions and speak about worries or concerns. External agencies are used to complement drug education provision where possible, as part of a planned programme (i.e. School Nurse, Local Safer Neighbourhood Team).

Objectives

Our approach to drug education seeks to support the following objectives in respect of drug use and misuse:

- To provide accurate information about substances in relation to personal safety.
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.

- To develop understanding that all medicines & drugs are harmful if not used properly.
- To increase understanding of implications/possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
- To clarify misconceptions about prevalence & acceptability of drug use among peers.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues including crime and the impact of drug misuse on both family and community.

At Key Stage 1 we focus upon the beneficial uses of drugs and medicines, the safety rules for their use and the need for them. At Key Stage 2 we build upon this knowledge, outlining the differences between legal and illegal substances and sensitively introducing children to the harmful effects which the misuse of drugs related substances can have. At this stage we also try to make them aware of the social pressures which may be put upon them. (Appendix 1).

Policy on drugs

This school is categorically against the misuse of medicines, alcohol, solvents, tobacco, 'legal highs' and volatile substances on school premises by all members of the school, staff and visitors. The school is opposed to the illegal possession or supply of drugs on its premises. Our first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils. We recognise our pastoral role in the care and welfare of children and seek to support those pupils who may have problems with drugs or be at risk of drug misuse (including those affected by someone else's drug use, e.g. parent/carer or family member). The school has developed clear referral pathways with the various agencies providing further support to schools and pupils. Whilst a small minority of people misuse drugs, most are choosing not to use or misuse drugs. We will continue to support their differing needs. The school is aware that the effective communication and cooperation with parents/carers is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Policy on smoking

The school supports Newham Council's policy on smoking, which prohibits smoking on the school premises or in the immediate vicinity. We are a non-smoking school, and expect everyone to abide by the policy to maintain a healthy environment. The school recognises that staff can play a key role in modelling positive behaviour in regard to smoking. The school is committed to providing information to members of the school community who wish to give up smoking e.g. promoting local Stop Smoking Services and national helplines. The school provides a comprehensive drug education programme, which covers the effects of smoking. Appropriate action will be taken for any pupil in breach of the school rules regarding smoking.

Responding to drug incidents

We recognise that the school may encounter different incidents involving drugs, which require a consistent, timely, appropriate and sensitive response.

Incidents could include:

- Medical emergency or intoxication
- Finding evidence of drug use or supply of drugs
- Pupil disclosure

- Paraphernalia or drugs found on school premises
- Parent/carer involvement in drugs

The school follows national guidance outlined in DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012) and Screening, Searching and Confiscation - Advice for Head Teachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies (2013).

All incidents involving drugs are reported to the Head Teacher.

Medical Emergency and Intoxication

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary, it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid for example, if they are unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disoriented or have ingested a harmful toxic substance. The school policy on Health and Safety outlines procedures for responding to medical emergencies.

The following guidelines are also useful:

- Do not panic.
- Do not leave the person alone.
- Send for medical help - call an ambulance and a named first aider.
- Place the person in the recovery position, or if conscious keep them warm and quiet and under constant observation.
- Do not chase or over-excite a person who is intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance as the person is at risk of cardiac arrest. Keep them calm and quiet.
- Notify parents/carers/next of kin.
- Talk to others involved to establish which substance has been used and collect any evidence, such as tablets, bottles, syringes, etc. This is to establish what medical treatment may be needed.
- In the case of alcohol intoxication, this may not be deemed a medical emergency if the person is still conscious -the person should be kept under observation and a parent/carer notified to collect their child.
- Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect.

Finding evidence of drug use

If we suspect a child has a banned substance, we reserve the right to search the child. Following a search, whether or not anything is found, we will make a record of the child searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action. If a pupil is discovered using or in possession of a drug, including tobacco or alcohol, that is not allowed on the school premises then the following action will be taken:

- The substance will be confiscated in the presence of two adults.
- The substance will be put in a labelled bag, dated and locked in a safe place.
- If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug then the police will be informed to collect the drug for disposal. The law does not require a school to divulge the name of the pupil involved to the police.
- Parents/carers will be contacted, unless this is not in the best interests of the child.
- Full details including police reference number will be recorded on an incident form.

- School and parents/carers will together decide what to do next. Details of their discussion and agreed action will remain on file. We will identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and/or disciplinary response as appropriate. Having thoroughly investigated events and personal circumstances, we may initiate an Early Help referral or make a referral to social care in order to respond to the identified needs of those involved.

Evidence of supply of drugs

Under the law, the school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that drugs are being sold on the premises, or in the school vicinity, details regarding those involved and as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Safety Officer. Where we know of the sale of legal drugs to minors, such as solvents, alcohol or tobacco, in the school locality then the school will inform local Trading Standards Officers and the police.

Disciplinary Issues

The school will consider each drug incident individually and equitably and recognises 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 will ensure that appropriate support is provided for the individual concerned. Permanent exclusion will be used as the last option when all other approaches have been exhausted.

Disclosure

If there is a disclosure relating to drug misuse, the Head Teacher will be informed in the first instance. They will inform the pupil's parents/carers and the school and parents/carers will together decide what to do next. If the school suspects that to involve parents/carers may put the child's safety at risk, or the school considers that there are child protection issues involved, the Designated Child Protection Officer will be consulted and the borough child protection procedures followed. Schools need to have regard to issues of confidentiality (although staff cannot promise total confidentiality to pupils). Staff are aware of their professional responsibilities to divulge sensitive information if it is deemed a child protection issue, in order to co-operate with a police investigation or when referral to an external service is necessary.

Parent involvement with drugs

In the case of parent/carer intoxication on school premises the school may see it necessary to intervene if the behaviour of the parent/carer is putting a child's safety at risk. Alternative arrangements to accompany the child home will be made. If the parent/carer's behaviour repeatedly puts the child's safety at risk, then the school will follow child protection procedures or notify the police.

Staff roles and responsibility

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the drug policy and its implementation, as well as liaison with governors, parents/carers and outside agencies. In the event of a drug incident receiving media attention, the Head Teacher will take responsibility for all communication with the media and seek advice from the LA Press Office. An appointed drug education co-ordinator (for example, the PSHE co-ordinator) will have responsibility

for planning and monitoring the drug education programme. All staff are made fully aware of the agreed procedures for managing drug incidents to ensure that responses are consistent and appropriate. Staff teaching drug education and those involved in dealing with drug incidents will receive training and support.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has a role in overseeing the drug education programme and developing the policy on drugs and drug incidents. They have a safeguarding role and may be called upon to contribute to appeals against exclusion.

Useful documents

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, DfE (2012)

Screening, searching and confiscation - Advice for Head Teachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies, DfE (2018)