



SOLVENT AND DRUG ABUSE

The school does not support the misuse of drugs, cigarettes or alcohol by its members, nor the illegal supply 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 recognises the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to foster an environment where pupils in need of support feel able to approach staff for advice and counseling.

In response to shared concerns at local and national level, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people of the consequences of drug use and misuse in line with the National Curriculum guidelines at KS3 and KS4.

The school endeavors at every level to share the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved. Effective communication is the key to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the number of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is important to recognise that many young people are choosing not to do so. We will continue to provide support for pupils' individual needs.

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

- provide accurate information about substances
- encourage pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, of dangers and effects, of substance use and misuse.
- encourage an attitude and environment such that would enable pupils to resist peer pressure.
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS, and so minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse.
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- encourage understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse.

These aims are fulfilled through curriculum activities such as Personal Development Education (PDE) and Science, although opportunities to reinforce learning occur in other parts of the teaching programme, and by the school actively co-operating with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug Agencies.

The Roles of the Headteacher and the Governing Body

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with Governing Body, parents, LA and the appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the school of a Substance Co-ordinator, who will have general responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained through outside agencies.

The Co-ordinator should be informed immediately of any incident involving suspected substances use/misuse on the school's premises. Following negotiations with the pupil, together with the pastoral team, if viewed necessary, the Co-ordinator will refer the pupil to an appropriate outside agency.

In both cases wherever possible the co-ordinator should first negotiate the contacting of parent/carer with the pupil concerned, so that this may be done on the pupils terms as far as possible.

Schools are under no legal obligation to inform parents/carers and in the first instance, in certain cases, it may be in the pupils best interest to carefully consider parental contact. In most cases it is appropriate to inform parents if their child is involved in a drug related incident. Parental involvement can be beneficial in resolving a range of difficulties and plays a crucial part in the long term circumstances where involvement of parents may be problematic. In all cases the safety of the pupil is the prime consideration.

Where a pupil wishes to seek help, advice, information from the Co-ordinator, or outside agency, any information given will be in the strictest confidence. The pupil is the prime consideration.

Where there is, rumour 'gossip', of suspected substance misuse the Co-ordinator should be informed. He/she will evaluate, investigate and substantiate any rumour, before talking to the pupil with the aim of referral to an outside agency.

In instances involving suspected substance misuse on or off the premises where the pupil on the premises exhibits signs of major health concern, appropriate medical agencies will be involved and parents/carers informed of medical intervention.

There will be a follow up procedure and guidance given from the outside agency.

Where there is a definite incidence of supplying on the premises, the Co-ordinator should be informed immediately. Immediate steps will be taken to ensure the safety from use/misuse of such substances by other pupils or staff of the school.

The Co-ordinator, Chair of the Governing Body or nominated governor, Year Tutor and the Headteacher in consultation will decide what course of action to pursue.

Although there is no legal obligation to inform the police, this may be considered to be the most appropriate course of action to take in some cases, as they may be able to give the relevant support and advice. The pupil will also be encouraged to seek help from other outside agencies.

If disciplinary action is appropriate normal school procedure will follow. Supplying illegal substances is a Level 4 behaviour which will lead to exclusion in line with school policy, which may be permanent.

When a substance is discovered on the premises the Co-ordinator should be contacted as soon as possible.

Disposal of “substances” is legally permissible. Police do not need to be informed. Any substance seized can be disposed of simply; for example, by placing in a bin, incinerating or flushing. Disposal prevents the continuation of the offence of possession by the young person. However, it is important that such action is witnessed by another member of staff. A report should be made and signed by both staff members. If a “substance” is not disposed of it must be stored in a secure place. Storage of substances on the school premises is not ideal and should only be considered if police involvement is anticipated. The substance should be separately packaged and labelled with the date, time and place where it was found. This should be witnessed by a colleague.

Confidentiality must be maintained at all times. All information will be confidential except to those staff who need to be aware of it. Any record of referrals will be of a statistical nature only, and no pupil involved in any incident will be identified by name.

Monitoring - Following an incident the Year Tutor or outside agency will monitor at risk pupils on a regular basis, as the situation requires and report to the Co-ordinator within two months and thereafter as deemed necessary.

The school will consider each substance incident individually 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 seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, other school members and the local community.

KEY STAGE 3		KEY STAGE 4	
	School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.		School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.
	Information about legal drugs (including prescribed and over the counter medicines) and illegal drugs, their effects and associated health risks.		Information about drugs, their legal status, effects and appearance.
	Scientific terminology including the following words: use, misuse, abuse addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal, and adulteration.		Personal, social, financial, biological, and psychological effects of drug misuse.
	Different categories of drugs – including stimulants, depressants, analgesics and hallucinogens.		Patterns of drug misuse locally and nationally and the impact on the community and wider society.
	The law relating to drugs.		Dangers associated with particular drugs and specific environments and moods.
	The misuse of drugs in sport.		Drug policy in this country, including education, prevention, policing and legal aspects, penalties, treatment and rehabilitation.
	The effects of different levels of intake of alcohol.		Legal responsibilities and rights.
	Advice and support within the locality, national helplines and organizations.		The services provided by local and national advice and support agencies.
	Identifying risks to Health.		Identifying and assessing risks.
	Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.		Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.
	Decision-making and assertiveness in situations relating to drug misuse.		Decision-making and assertiveness in situations relating to drug use.
	Giving and securing help if needed (for example, placing someone in the 'recovery position').		Managing conflict and aggressive behaviour.
	Attitudes and beliefs about drugs among different groups in society.		Communicating drug advice to other young people.
	Impact of the media and advertising on young people's thinking.		Attitudes towards drugs, drug users and misusers and laws relating to drugs including licensing and retailing laws.
	Attitudes towards drugs and laws relating to drugs.		Individuals' responsibility for their own actions.
	Recognition of oneself as a role model and acceptance of responsibility of one's actions.		Taking responsibility of one's own, and other people's safety.