



## **DRUGS POLICY**

### **RATIONALE**

The school is committed to promoting the health, safety and welfare of all members of its community, and recognises the potential harm that the misuse of drugs (see definition of drug below) may cause. There is no place for drugs in school.

### **OVERALL PURPOSE**

To seek to protect the school community from the dangers of drug misuse through education and guidance, and by the appropriate management of drug-related incidents in school.

### **AIMS**

To provide drugs education which helps individuals to make healthy choices about their lifestyles by increasing their understanding of the implications of drug use and misuse.

To enable individuals to identify sources of appropriate personal support when confronted by issues involving drugs.

To keep the school free from drugs.

To work collaboratively with parents and outside agencies in the implementation of this policy.

To ensure that the school's practices meet legal requirements and take account of DfE and Local Authority guidance about drugs.

### **PRINCIPLES**

This policy will be implemented in a way that:

- recognises the health, safety and well-being of our young people as paramount;
- strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of individuals and the wider school community;
- is consistent with the school's overall aims and ethos.

## **GUIDELINES ON IMPLEMENTATION**

### **A) DRUG – A DEFINITION**

The World Health Organisation defines a “drug” as any substance which alters the physical and/or psychological function of the body when taken internally, excepting food and water. Examples include, but are not limited to, analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines, narcotics and solvents

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply:

“a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.”

This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication legal/illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) volatile substances and all over the counter and prescription medicines.

### **B) MEDICINES**

Students may bring prescribed medicines to school if they need to take them during the school day and if they are clearly labelled and handed in at the office in the morning where they will be stored securely. Parents/carers must complete and sign a request form giving required information. Staff will keep an accurate record of when medicines have been given. Students with inhalers must keep these on their person at all times and they are permitted to use them as and when necessary. There are circumstances in which students may bring into school and take over-the-counter medicines such as those providing relief from period pains or hay fever. These circumstances will be set out in the school’s medicines policy.

### **C) DRUGS EDUCATION**

Drugs Education can be clearly identified within the school’s provision of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education and appropriate attention is given to the need for continuity progression, balance and relevance. Adequate staff resources and development are provided to support drugs education.

The school will make regular use of the local initiatives to inform staff and parents about drugs.

The school’s drugs education programme will be reviewed annually by the member of SLT with responsibility for the Policy.

## D) MANAGING DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

- These incidents are defined as the possession, attending use or supply of drugs by students in school, travel to and from school whether or not using school transport, on educational visits or any school-organised activity. This includes paraphernalia relating to drug taking. The misuse of a medicine is also included in this definition. Medicines prescribed for an individual must not be given or passed to a third party. Non-prescribed medicines that an individual is allowed to have in school for his or her own use should not be given or passed to a third party and should only be used by that individual according to the dosage and any other instructions supplied when the medication is purchased. Please note incidents regarding cigarettes and tobacco will be dealt with under the school's behaviour policy
- All such incidents will be carefully investigated and written statements will be taken from students involved. The investigation will be led by the Headteacher or a deputy;
- Any drugs that are found in school will be secured on the school site. The police will always be asked to assist in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs;
- A trained first-aider will be involved wherever there is a suspected danger to the health of a pupil;
- Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity if their child is involved in an investigation;
- In accordance with the law, students' bags will be searched and possession taken of any suspected substance. A search of a student's person is not permitted;
- All incidents involving illegal drugs will be reported to the police, and their active involvement will be sought. Names of any students engaged in possessing, using, supplying or purchasing/obtaining illegal drugs will be divulged to the police. The police may be informed or consulted about incidents involving legal drugs, at the school's discretion, and the school may discuss a case with or without divulging the student's name. The school will normally contact the designated officer and will only use 999 in emergencies;
- The chair of governors will be informed of the name. The likelihood is that a drugs-related incident will provoke a meeting of a Pupil Disciplinary Committee;
- The sanction imposed against students involved in drugs-related incidents will be determined in the light of the particular situation. However, a fixed-term exclusion will be given for a first offence. A subsequent offence will bring a permanent exclusion unless a different response is justified by exceptional circumstance. The exceptions to the 'second chance' principle are:
  1. When a student has joined this school having been permanently excluded from a previous school for a drugs offence, a first drugs offence will bring a permanent exclusion unless a different response is justified by exceptional circumstances.
  2. When a student has supplied drugs to members of the school community in quantities above those commensurate with his or her personal use, or is found to have been supplying drugs over a period of time, a first offence will bring a permanent exclusion unless a different response is justified by exceptional circumstances.

- Students involved in drug-related incidents will be referred to external agencies. This may include the school's designated police liaison officer who can offer specialist assistance;
- All members of staff will be vigilant for signs of drug misuse and will report any suspicions to a Head of Year, Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher;
- Any media involvement will be handled in the normal way with the Headteacher, Deputy or Assistant Headteachers taking charge of the incident.
- The Leadership Team and other staff involved will review the management of drug related incidents when appropriate.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed tri-annually. The Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for organising this review. After each review and approval by full governors the policy will be communicated to all students and parents. All new parents, in-year admissions, will receive a copy of the policy.

Deputy Headteacher responsible: Mr Liam Martin

Designated Police Officer: Kenny Williamson 21148, Police Community Support Officer

Approved by Strategic Governors – 20 June 2016.