

DRUGS POLICY

Rationale

- The use and misuse of drugs are educational issues.
- The use and misuse of drugs are essentially issues about choosing healthy lifestyles, and therefore need to be viewed in the context of a wider Health Education policy.
- Drug misuse is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community.

Purposes

- 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.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse.
- 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.

Guidelines

1. Drugs education will be the overall responsibility of a Deputy Head, assisted particularly by the Head of Personal Development and the Health Education Co-ordinator. However, all staff have a part to play in the Drugs education programme.
2. Drugs education will be addressed specifically through
 - The National Curriculum at both KS3 & 4.
 - The Tutorial (Personal Development and Citizenship) programme focusing on Healthy Choices throughout the school.
 - Partnership with Parents.
 - Staff Training on drug awareness: Initial Teacher Training, Induction of NQTs and new staff, INSET for existing staff.
3. The school recognizes that whilst concern focuses particularly on illegal drugs such as cannabis and Class A drugs along with psychoactive substances (known as 'legal highs'). Other issues need also to be addressed e.g. volatile substances, tobacco and alcohol.
4. The danger of glamorising drugs abuse by singling out the issue is recognized. Equally to avoid the issue because of the dangers of stigma would be reprehensible.

5. Drug Misuse

- 5.1 All staff need to be alert to warning signs that students are misusing drugs.

Any adult who has reason to be concerned that a student may be misusing drugs **MUST** let the Head of House or Head/Deputy Head know straight away. The designated drugs person in school is Stuart Nuttall, Assistant Headteacher. It is our policy that we notify parents of these concerns even if we do not have conclusive evidence.

- 5.2 Appropriate counselling and support will be offered where a student has been identified as having experimented with illegal drugs or is in danger of doing so. The school will ensure that students vulnerable to drug misuse are identified and receive appropriate support either from within the school or through referral to other services, including the Drug Intervention Service.
- 5.3 Staff will give no guarantee of confidentiality if a student admits drug misuse, but will point to sources of confidential information.
- 5.4 The first priority when dealing with students thought to be under the influence of drugs will be to ensure their health and safety by referring / consulting with first aiders in school.
- 5.5 Whilst the school recognizes the need to continue to counsel and care for the needs of all its students, students and parents will be periodically reminded that that the punishment of permanent exclusion is the sanction that will be applied for violent conduct; serious physical assault; being in possession of an offensive weapon; the possession or supply of illegal drugs; concerned with the dealing of drugs or other unauthorised drugs on school premises and on a school visit, including psychoactive substances (known as 'legal highs') or if a student is found to be under the influence.

6. Managing Drug Incidents

- 6.1 When a student is suspected of being involved in drug misuse at school, on a school visit or travelling to and from school, all statements/notes taken from students must be signed by the student and include the date and time of the interview along with the signature of the staff present.
- 6.2 The Head/Deputy Heads should be informed as soon as a drug incident occurs.
- 6.3 A record of the timing of events must be compiled at the time of the incident.
- 6.4 In the event of a student's bag or locker being searched, two members of staff must be present.
- 6.5 Any illegal substances will be handed to the Police who will be informed of any incident relating to drugs. Any drugs or related paraphernalia should be placed in a labelled bag and retained in the school safe until the Police arrive.
- 6.6 The first priority is always the safety of students and anyone suspected of being under the influence will be seen by a medical person in school and consideration will be made of any medical assistance required with recommendations made to parents regarding any further medical assessment.

Conclusion

This policy should be read in conjunction with policies on Safeguarding.

Name of Policy	Drugs Policy
Name of lead member of staff	SNT
Date of Review	2017
Date of next planned review	2018