

Drug Prevention Policy

The School condemns the use of illegal substances at any time and believes the misuse of legal substances, including prescription and non-prescription drugs, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other intoxicating materials to be wrong. Such substances must not be brought onto the School site unless for legitimate use, agreed by the School.

The School recognises the reality that young people will be exposed to other cultures that consider drug misuse to be acceptable and, in some case, may be brought up in an environment where that is the norm. The School aims to ensure that its students know the risks of drug taking and have the skills and knowledge to help them resist the temptation to partake.

CONTROL OF LEGAL SUBSTANCES

There are a number of substances which can, quite properly, be found on a school site but can cause intoxication and short or long term harm. All adults working on the site have the responsibility to ensure all such substances are stored safely and are used correctly. Adults need to be aware that it is easy to inadvertently give the wrong messages to young people and that the example they set is important in establishing a positive drug prevention culture in the School.

MEDICINES: When treatment requires medicines to be taken during the school day, the minimum quantity necessary for only that day's treatment should be brought onto the site by the student. Medicines that are a potential hazard should be lodged with a responsible adult and, where appropriate, only be taken under supervision. Where a student is receiving long term treatment the medication should be kept in a secure place, supervised by an appropriate member of staff. (Teaching or non-teaching).

ALCOHOL: Students are not normally allowed to bring alcohol onto the site. In the event of alcohol being brought on to the site for a legitimate reason, e.g. it has been donated as a prize for a raffle, it must be immediately deposited with a responsible adult.

TOBACCO: The use of tobacco products (this includes e-cigarettes and other similar

products) by staff, students, visitors, contractors and any persons legally or illegally on the site is banned. Staff who do use tobacco products on the site may be the subject of disciplinary proceedings. Further students must not have tobacco products in their possession on the school site.

Signage indicating ours is a no smoking site will be displayed in the reception area and conform to any current EU regulation.

OFFERING ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO AS PRIZES MAY NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH THE AIM OF "ESTABLISHING A POSITIVE DRUG PREVENTION CULTURE" BUT IF PRODUCTS CONTAINING ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO ARE OFFERED AS PRIZES IN RAFFLES AND SIMILAR GAMES OR COMPETITIONS THEY SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO PEOPLE YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE. ALTERNATIVE PRIZES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

SOLVENT BASED PRODUCTS:

Some products e.g. solvent based glues and paints, aerosols, some correction fluids, permanent markers, dry wipe pens, gas cartridges, etc. contain potentially intoxicating substances. Students should not bring such products on to the school site, but if found in the possession of a student, will be confiscated for safe keeping.

Some products are discouraged, for reasons other than drug prevention, but students will be made aware of the dangers of all such substances through the drug education programme.

HERBS AND FUNGI: There are a growing number of substances that can be purchased legally through local retail outlets that have, or are claimed to have, intoxicating or hallucinogenic properties. Such materials must not be brought onto the school site, but if found in a student's possession will be confiscated and returned to parents.

INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES: It is not permitted to be in possession of, or bring onto the School site, any substance which might cause intoxication or to enter the site while under the influence of such substances.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

POTENTIAL INCIDENTS - including

1. Students under the influence of legal or illegal substances on or off the School premises.
2. Outsiders under the influence of legal or illegal substances on or off the School premises.

3. Inflicting intoxicating or hallucinogenic substances on others by spiking, bullying or peer pressure.
4. Suspected misuse of substances by a student on or off the site.
5. Students found in possession of legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, illicit herbs or fungi, solvents or tobacco.
6. Supplying (this includes selling, giving or sharing) illegal substances by our own students.
7. Supplying on or off the site by outsiders.
8. Finding the paraphernalia of substance misuse in the possession of a student or on the site.
9. Receipt of information that a student is involved in substance misuse.
10. Accidental intoxication.
11. Out of school drug related problems affecting education.
12. Any of the above during school trips or holidays.

RESPONSES AND SANCTIONS:

Any given drug related incident might consist of a combination of several of the above, it is therefore inappropriate to list specific responses or sanctions against particular incidents. Parents will normally be informed of any drug related incident. Where illegal substances are involved the Police would normally be contacted by the Head and persons acting on behalf of the Head. The key advice is don't panic - **think carefully, do not rush into taking any action.**

The first responsibility of any member of staff who discovers a situation in which drugs may be involved is to ensure the safety of the students involved.

A) INITIAL RESPONSES

1. Isolate those involved from other students and ensure they are safe.

2. If appropriate send for a qualified first aider.
3. Consider if any of those involved require medical treatment and how urgently.
4. Inform the school office requesting the immediate support of a senior member of staff, that the Head be informed, and an ambulance sent for if needed.
5. Supervise those involved until relieved by another teacher.
6. Save any evidence including vomit.
7. Record the incident as soon as practical.
8. A senior member of staff must decide whether it is appropriate to send the student(s) to hospital or home with parents.

(B) GATHERING INFORMATION

1. Continue to supervise those involved.
2. Any investigation of a serious incident will normally be carried out by a senior member of staff. When illegal substances are involved it may be wise for two people to work together.
3. Consult files, Child Protection Officer, Drug Prevention key teacher, Head of Year, Tutor.
4. It is open to a member of staff to search a pupil's desk or locker where he or she has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs. Where pupils are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person, every effort must be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substance, for example asking them to turn out their pockets. If a pupil refuses, the police should be called to deal with the situation. Intimate physical searches should never be made by a teacher.
5. It is an offence to be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he took all such steps that were reasonably open to him to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the

purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession. They should hand the substance over to the police who will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug; school staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance.

(C) POSSIBLE SANCTIONS AND SUPPORT

1. Inform parents.
2. Inform the police.
3. Involve external agencies.
4. Permanent exclusion.
5. Temporary exclusion.
6. Withdrawal from classes.
7. Behaviour contract.
8. Establish counselling.
9. On-report.
10. Detention.
11. Inform other students to avoid rumours.

Where a student is found to be in possession of, or using, tobacco products the member of staff concerned would normally deal with the situation themselves, setting a punishment while informing parents, tutor and Head of Year. Where a teacher sets a school detention as punishment, posting the detention notification, this will ensure all interested parties are informed.

STAFF TRAINING

The teaching staff, in general, will be provided with regular training on the signs of drug misuse, its paraphernalia and responses to drug related incidents.

The school's non-teaching staff, in particular the caretakers and cleaners, are ideally placed to detect the use of illegal substances on the site. The paraphernalia associated with drug taking is often abandoned by the user, therefore drug prevention training will be provided for the non-teaching staff.

DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

As already stated the School aims to ensure that by providing accurate information on the effects of drugs (useful and/or dangerous) its students understand the risks of drug taking and have the skills and knowledge to help them resist the temptation to partake.

This aim may be achieved through a continually developing whole school drug prevention programme which will provide students, parents, governors and staff with up to date information and the knowledge.

All curriculum areas will be expected to implement policy and practice but, in particular, Personal, Social and Health Education, Drama, Religious Education, Science and Physical Education may include units of study that address substance misuse.

THE PROGRAMME

The Drug Prevention Programme is will be taught by specialist staff who will respond to developing current local and national needs. The drug prevention team will ensure the materials used are up to date and relevant.

YEAR 7: An introduction to legal and illegal substances, including effects and current laws – supported by Lancashire Constabulary's drug prevention programme Choices.

YEAR 8: A review of the laws concerning legal and illegal substances (including the

long term consequences of a drugs conviction); with a focus on legally obtainable substances Alcohol, Nicotine and Solvents.

YEAR 9: Focuses on Ecstasy, Amphetamines Cannabis and L.S.D. Students should be able to recognise the substances and understand the consequences of their misuse. Heroin use will be looked at in conjunction with STI's as part of the sex education unit.

YEAR 10: The St John's First Aid course will involve the effects of substance misuse, students are asked to consider how they would deal with a range incidents; thus inculcating the dangers of legal and illegal substances. HIV/AIDS - attitudes to AIDS and its victims are explored through 'workshop' sessions as part of the sex education unit; this will include transmission by injecting substances.

YEAR 11: The consequences of heroin use in particular and similar substances generally, will be explored in depth and will include a research exercise on the support services available in the county

ADVICE TO TEACHERS

- (1) Though a teacher may give general or individual advice to a class on drug related matters, the teacher should encourage the student to also seek advice from a parent or, if appropriate, a relevant health service professional.
- (2) Teachers are expected to be discreet regarding matters discussed during drug education lessons. However, the teacher cannot, and must not, promise absolute confidentiality to students.
- (3) If a teacher performing his/her normal professional duties suspects a child is at risk morally, physically or psychologically the school's Child Protection Officer must be consulted without delay.
- (4) The Governors recognise it is inevitable that issues will be raised, language quoted and

acts discussed that might cause offence to some people. Where such sensitive issues arise the teacher should answer questions factually, emphasising the importance of respect for self and others. If the teacher believes the students are raising an issue to be provocative or a discussion is getting out of hand it must be terminated. Exercising the right to pass may be an option.

- (5) When outside speakers are used;
- (i) They should offer greater expertise and presentational skills than our own staff.
 - (ii) An attempt should be made to watch a visiting speaker's presentation before any session in School.
 - (iii) The organising teacher must have discussed parameters for discussion and the degree of explicitness to be used, the organising teacher must have discussed the possibility and manner of intervention, should it be necessary, with the visiting speaker before the session.
 - (iv) They must never be left in sole charge of a group of students.
 - (v) Without identifying the student(s) visitors must be made aware of any pupils who might be sensitive regarding the issues being discussed.
 - (vi) An evaluation, involving the students, should be carried for the session.

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