

Drugs Policy

SCHOOL DEFINITION OF DRUGS

A drug is a chemical substance which can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically. Within this definition fall legal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, prescribed medication and solvents, together with illegal substances such as cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy.

AIMS

- To encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into the body.
- To raise pupil awareness of the world of drugs so they can make informed choices.
- To enable pupils to explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- To promote a non smoking lifestyle.
- To develop skills which enable pupils to cope and live in any drug orientated society.
- To promote an awareness that drugs are neither good nor bad in themselves but that all substances can be harmful if not used properly.
- To develop responsibility in pupils towards themselves and each other.

SCHOOL'S STANCE

The school does not condone or tolerate the misuse of any drug - legal, prescribed or illegal. The school is aware that attitude towards these substances vary and endeavours to support families where appropriate without being judgemental. The school maintains effective liaison with social services, police and other agencies.

PROCEDURES REGARDING SUBSTANCES IN SCHOOL.

Smoking in school.

Our school is a strictly non smoking environment. All staff are required to leave the school premises to smoke and to smoke out of the sight of pupils. Staff are allowed to smoke in their own vehicles on the car park provided pupils cannot see them.

Medicines in school.

Non prescription.

There are first aid boxes in all units and the Medical Room. The boxes do not contain antiseptics, witch hazel, analgesics (e.g. paracetamol) or any other proprietary preparations kept for minor illnesses and home use. Aspirin should not be administered to children under 12 years unless prescribed by a doctor.

Prescription Medicines.

The LEA recommends that schools do not administer medication other than asthma inhalers. Every child with asthma should have an inhaler labelled with their name in school at all times. Inhalers are kept in a labelled basket in every classroom. Children with asthma are allowed to use inhalers themselves. Parents who wish their child to receive any other prescribed medicines during the day are asked to come in to school and administer the medicine themselves. Under no circumstances are the children allowed to bring medicines and self administer them except for asthma inhalers.

DEFINITION OF A DRUG RELATED INCIDENT

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on school premises.
- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia (This includes cigarettes and lighters or matches)
- A staff member has the information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place on or around the school premises.
- A pupil discloses that a friend or family member is misusing drugs.
- A parent, carer or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of drugs on school premises.
- A pupil is found to be a recognised supply source of drugs on the school premises.
- A pupil is thought to be under the influence of non prescribed drugs.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Where drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the premises the police will be informed immediately if the drugs are of an illegal nature.

If a pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia, the parents will be informed immediately. Each case will be dealt with according to how serious it is deemed to be. There is no legal requirement for the school to contact the police.

If a staff member has information regarding the illegal supply or sale of drugs on or around the premises, the police will be informed.

If a pupil discloses, the Child Protection Coordinator will be informed and deal with the situation as he/ she sees fit.

If a parent, carer, member of staff is thought to be under the influence of illegal drugs on school premises appropriate action will be taken by Senior Management. A Senior Member of staff has the right to prevent a parent/ carer taking a child if they are thought to be incapable of appropriate care. Social services may be informed.

Although very rare in a Junior School, if any child is found to be a recognised supply source of drugs, parents/ carers will be informed first and possibly the police and social services."

If a child is thought to be under the influence of non prescribed drugs in school the parents/ carers will be informed immediately and possibly the police and social services - depending on the circumstances.

In applying any of the procedures the school must take into account the age of the child and relevant information regarding family background.

The utmost priority must be placed on safety, medical emergencies being met with appropriate first aid before further issues are addressed.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Procedures are similar to those of Child Protection where total confidentiality cannot always be given. This is according to the discretion of the Head teacher and named Child Protection Coordinator.

The health and safety of the child and members of the school community are paramount.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Through PSHCE and Science the children are taught

- An understanding of the need for some kinds of drugs to make us well.
- That misuse of any drugs can be harmful.
- How the body works and how to take care of it.
- Dangers of handling discarded syringes and needles.
- Avoiding contact with strangers

SKILLS

- Identifying risk
- Coping with peer pressure
- Communicating with adults
- Decision making
- Where to ask for help.
- Safety procedures.

ATTITUDES

- Valuing myself and others.
- Attitudes and beliefs about different drugs and people who might use them.
- The media and how drugs are portrayed.
- Taking responsibility for own behaviour and safety.

Updated February 2006

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