



To nurture each individual's aspirations and talent

To provide outstanding learning experiences and opportunities

To promote respect for one another and the environment

To encourage collaboration and partnership

DRUGS POLICY

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Status:	Recommended

1. PURPOSE

This policy gives clear guidance to staff, governors, parents and students on the school's view of drugs, drug education, how drug-related incidents are managed and the rules relating to drugs in school.

Drugs play a part in the lives of everyone and experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people's lives. Education has an important role to play to help reduce the harm from drugs, in drug prevention and in helping those who misuse drugs. This policy emphasises the school's pastoral role and proactive role to drug education. In developing the policy the school has considered its legal responsibility, the needs of students, teachers, governors, parents and the local community.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant documents, including: Managing Drug Related Incidents and the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Programme of Study.

Other policies that are directly or indirectly relevant to this policy are the Anti-Smoking Policy, Behaviour Policy, Confidentiality Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy and Sex and Relationships Policy.

3. SCOPE, PRINCIPLES AND DEFINITIONS

Drugs - A definition

Drugs are substances which alter the mind or body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and illegal drugs such as ecstasy and cannabis. It also covers the misuse of prescribed medication. This policy is not concerned with the legal and appropriate use of prescribed and over the counter medication.

The Use of Drugs in School

All the drugs covered by this policy, as well as drug related paraphernalia, are prohibited and must not be brought to, sold, passed on, used or obtained on the school premises. Any breaking of these rules will result in punishment which may include permanent exclusion. *If a student needs to take prescribed medication during the school day, the school should be informed about its usage and administration. The medication should be kept in the school office. Asthma inhalers and epi pens are kept by students for easy and immediate access but we encourage students to also provide the school office with a spare to use in case of emergencies.*

Drug Education

The school provides a drug education programme for all students as part of Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education and through the Science curriculum. A structured programme of drug education aims to reduce the harm from drugs by:

- Providing accurate information about different drug use and related issues.
- Increasing understanding about drugs and why people take drugs.

- Helping students to build their self-esteem and confidence and develop skills to cope in situations where drugs are available.
- Providing opportunities for students to explore their own and other people's attitudes toward drugs and drug users
- Helping students make informed decisions about the use of drugs.

Confidentiality

Students may need to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug related problem. The welfare of students is always our highest priority. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality because of legal and child protection issues. Reporting/recording information about a student in relation to drugs will follow the same procedures as other sensitive information. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people, including Tutor, Head of Year, Key Stage Coordinator and members of the Senior Leadership Team. If exclusion is sanctioned then there is also Governor involvement. All incidents are written down and kept as confidential information.

Involvement of Parents

Parents can have access to the drug education curriculum on request and have an opportunity to raise any concerns. Parents will always be contacted if their child is caught breaking any of the rules on drugs.

Responding to Drug-related incidents

In every situation the following principles will apply:

- Staff are issued with guidance on how to manage a drug related incident.
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on a response.
- Parents/Guardians will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation.
- The involvement of the Child Protection coordinator will be considered.
- Support agencies including the police will be involved if appropriate.
- Support for students will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate.
- Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling approach.

Police Involvement

In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. However, the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply illegal drugs; however it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately. The school has strong links with the community police and it is school policy where an incident has involved an illegal substance to hand it to the police.

Sanctions

Any breach of the school rules on drugs will result in punishment. The type of punishment will depend on the exact nature and degree of the offence. The school uses a variety of sanctions e.g. loss of free time, detention, community service, and fixed exclusions. Permanent exclusion is the ultimate sanction. (See guidance on Managing Drug Related Incidents).

Counselling

The student's welfare is of utmost importance and, in all incidents involving drugs, a referral for counselling or support within the school is actively considered. Students who are misusing illegal drugs are encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage. We work with school counsellors, school nurse, and other external agencies.

Training and Support for Staff

All staff are given a copy of the Managing Drug Related Incidents guidance and key staff receive additional training where needed. Members of staff requiring additional guidance and support are referred to these members of key staff.

4. CONSULTATION

This policy was written following consultation between staff, parents and was discussed and ratified by the school Governors.

5. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for pastoral systems takes responsibility for regularly monitoring the school's adherence to the principles of this policy; consulting with the Leader for PSHCE where necessary. Where need for change is noticed, the policy may be amended accordingly. In addition, the member of SLT responsible for the policy and Governors will review it every 3 years.