

HEALING  
SCHOOL



A Science Academy

# Healing School – A Science Academy

## Drugs Education Policy (inc. substance abuse)

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Consultations/Training	Learning Co-ordinators & Tutors

# **POLICY STATEMENT**

## **General Statement**

The aim of the Drugs Education Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.

The policy ensures that a whole school approach on the issue of drugs is part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils, who may be affected either directly or indirectly by drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug related incidents. Sanctions for incidents may be consistent with the school's discipline policy.

This policy relates to the Personal, Social and Health & Citizenship Education, taught in school under the name PSHCE, Behaviour & Discipline Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

## **Definition**

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

*'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'*

The word 'drug' is used to include all mood-altering substances. Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and legal highs. In addition over the counter, prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs and other substances such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, solvents and 'poppers'.

The possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is illegal. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be used, bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

## **Drugs Education**

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHCE lessons that reflect knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding of the effects of substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- seek to minimise the risks that young people face
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

PSHCE teachers in KS3 teach about an awareness of the dangers of drugs, both legal and illegal drugs. Outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school drug policy. Teachers have access to ongoing support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively cooperates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

### **Statutory Duty of School**

The Principal takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governors, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies (Addaction for example). The Vice Principal and Learning Co-ordinator in charge of PSHCE will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The Principal will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

### **Implementation**

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Principal. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but informing the Principal/Vice Principals is appropriate action and recording details on "My Concern" (safeguarding reporting system). Usually parents will be informed by the appropriate member of the team.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those

involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Affairs Department.

The Governors will be involved in drug education and drug related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. However, possession of a substance, using a substance, buying or selling a substance, are all incidents, which if undertaken on the school premises, will normally result in an exclusion of some nature. Permanent exclusion may be warranted. In the case of buying or selling for monetary gain, it may, in the Principal's judgement, be appropriate to permanently exclude for a first offence.

Action to be taken when possession of drugs is suspected:

If a member of staff suspects that a child is in possession of drugs he/she should report this to SLT/Learning Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Team/Pupil Services Staff who are authorised to search pupils (please see Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy). The authorised member of staff and member of SLT should:

Ask the pupil to surrender the suspect substance.\*

Place the substance in a sealed bag and write the following on the label:

Name of pupil  
Date & time  
Name of staff member & signature  
Passed to (name)  
Date & time passed on

This bag must be kept secure until it can be handed into the school office.

When received by a member of the office staff a receipt should be given and the substance placed in a locked drawer or the safe.

The Principal (or delegated representative) will decide upon an appropriate course of action. This may include informing parents, police and/or destruction of the substance. When a substance is destroyed this must be carried out in the presence of a responsible adult witness.

\*a) If a pupil refuses to surrender the suspect substance the member of staff should summon a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This person will escort the pupil to a secure place where further action, including summoning parents, police and conducting a search may take place.

\*b) Where a hypodermic needle is involved extra care must be taken when handling the item which should be placed in the 'sharps' bin (located in the Health and Welfare Assistant's office) as soon as possible.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the County Council Guidance on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

### **Reviewing/Monitoring**

All Policies are reviewed on an annual basis by the School Governors.

Senior Member of Staff Responsible: Vice Principal

Governor Responsible: Chair of Personnel Committee

The **Principal** will ensure all incidents involving the misuse of Drugs on the school site are dealt with in line with the school policy.

The **Vice Principal** who line manages the PSHCE education will:

- monitor the effectiveness of teaching
- review the curriculum and teaching materials regularly
- involve external agency support when appropriate.