**Silver Birch School**

**Drugs and Alcohol policy**

**Issued:** 31/08/13

**Reviewed:** 19/08/18

**Next review date:** August 2019

**Policy Statement**

Philosophy

We believe that our school has a duty to inform and educate young people on issues of drug and alcohol use and misuse. Our school takes an active stance on this subject; we believe that Health Education is an essential part of the personal and social development of every student.

"Drug misuse is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Drug education enables students to make healthy informed choices."

HMSO 1995

Additionally the school will not tolerate the presence or use of alcohol or illegal drugs on the school premises. This means medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances. (Medicines prescribed by a doctor are exempt)

# Drug Use

Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a pupil is discovered with /or suspected to be using alcohol, solvents or illegal drugs, then a fixed period exclusion will be an immediate consideration. More serious disciplinary consequences will be considered, together with support needs and child protection, dependent upon individual circumstances.

# Educational visits

During educational visits:

* Staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits, which will include the issue of consumption of alcohol and smoking by staff
* Adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place
* A nominated first aider will be responsible for the safe storage of any pupils’ medicines and supervision their administration
* Pupils will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

# Policy aims

1. To provide students with accurate information about the role of drugs as medicines and their effect
2. To provide students with accurate information about the effects of alcohol consumption
3. To promote responsible behaviour in relation to drug (including nicotine) and alcohol use and misuse
4. For students to know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances
5. To promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
6. To examine own opinions and values, and those of others
7. To enhance self-awareness and self esteem
8. To value and respect self and others

# Teaching

* Formal teaching will be done through Science, PSHE and Citizenship lessons
* Staff should take every opportunity to challenge misconceptions and to encourage positive choices
* Issues will be addressed taking account of students’ different cultures, ethnicities and religions

* To develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs

* To gain an understanding of how the body functions

* To gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use

* To gain an understanding of the role of drugs in society and the laws and rules relating to their use

* To gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have worries and an understanding of confidentiality
* To be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media

# Appendix

[**http://www.talktofrank.com/support-near-you -** **0300 123 6600**](http://www.talktofrank.com/support-near-you%20-%20%20%20%200300%20123%206600) [**http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/drugs-alcohol/where-toget-help-for-your-teen-about-drugs/**](http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/drugs-alcohol/where-to-get-help-for-your-teen-about-drugs/)