



Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Ratification Date: 5/09/23

Signed: Diane Robinson/Tracey Lecointe

Review Date: 5/09/25

Aims

We believe that it is the school's responsibility to help reduce the harm from drugs and to play a role in drug misuse and/or prevention. This policy emphasises the school's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and its clear view on handling the problem of drug use in schools. This policy is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and wellbeing of the whole school community. Counselling is always available within school for anyone involved in experimenting with drugs or worried on behalf of themselves or their friends. If a pupil's safety is considered to be under threat the Designated Lead will evoke the Child Protection procedures.

A definition of drugs

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquillisers and painkillers, and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, LSD, cannabis, crack/cocaine and heroin, and other drugs young people may use, such as 'poppers'.

Drug education and drug prevention

Whole School Objectives:

- To clearly express the school's attitudes and approach for staff, pupils, parents and prospective parents
- To give accurate and current information about substances
- To challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding substance use and misuse.
- To provide pupils with the skills they might need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To attempt to persuade those who are experimenting with, or misusing drugs, to stop.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs, or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs, to gain access to agencies where support can be obtained.
- To use the in-school support of the behaviour support team and mentors to promote safe and healthy lifestyles within a supportive framework
- To use the counselling services and school nurse as effective support for pupils
- To specify drugs education within the curriculum
- To raise awareness of all members of school community of current trends and drugs-related facts

PSHE Objectives:

The school provides drug education within the PSHE curriculum and talks from people such as the Police and Drug Advisory Services. We educate pupils to understand that the use of illegal drugs is a criminal offence; that it will harm their health; damage future career opportunities and will could have a negative effect on the community in which they live. We aim to provide all pupils with up to date, accurate knowledge, and attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs. Drug education also forms part of other curriculum subjects.

Staff responsible for drugs issues:

The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for the development, monitoring, and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff, liaising with external agencies to support the curriculum and developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy. The Principal is responsible for managing drug-related incidents.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Role of Teaching Staff

- To deliver clear and consistent messages about drugs and their misuse
- To keep up to date with related matters

The Role of the Head of Centre

- The Principal should keep the policy updated
- The Principal should make provision for parents to be informed about the policy

The Role of the Pastoral Team and School Nurse

- To provide guidance and advice for staff
- To provide counselling and information for pupils regarding drugs-related issues

Statement on the use of drugs in School

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school visits, trips, fieldwork, school tours, or other occasions on which the school, as opposed to the parents, is responsible for pupils. **It is forbidden to buy, sell, possess, deal in and/or use the drugs covered by this policy in a school context**, with the exception of medicines for the sole use of particular individuals with the agreement of the school nurse.

Any breaking of these rules will result in punishment including permanent exclusion.

Tobacco

The use of tobacco is not illegal, although it is illegal for under-18-year-olds to purchase tobacco products. Tobacco does not produce dramatic mood or behavioural changes and, therefore, may be regarded differently from other drugs. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds. Parents will be informed that their child has been smoking on school property and sent home in accordance with the school's no smoking guidance

Medicines

Medicines should only be brought into school in keeping with the school's policy on medicines. Pupils should only have on their person the required dosage for the day. Pupils found to be distributing medicines will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Confidentiality

The welfare of young people, in the general sense, will always be central to our policy and practice. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will be treated in the same way as other sensitive information. The Principal will be informed and help sought, if appropriate and, where possible, in discussion with the pupil involved. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people whom it is necessary to involve which may a small selection of staff.

Principles to be applied in situations involving illegal or illicit drugs

In all situations involving illegal or illicit drugs the following principles apply:

- Pupils who deal in illegal or illicit drugs may be permanently excluded
- Pupils in the possession of illegal or illicit drugs or using illegal drugs must expect to be excluded for a fixed term. If exclusion is considered then the procedure for this is put into action by the Principal. The Home School will also be notified.
- Parents will be informed of an incident as soon as possible and kept informed of developments throughout any investigation.
- Care will be taken to explain to a pupil that there is no presumption of guilt and that he/she is invited to clear him/herself by undergoing a test.
- Support agencies including the Police will be involved if appropriate.
- All incidents are written down and information is shared on a need-to-know basis. This uses the same practice as informed by the school's confidentiality and child protection policies.
- In all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling during the investigation will be actively considered.
- Illegal or illicit drugs will always be stored/disposed of safely.
- The Principal is obliged by Law to inform the Police in the event of an offence involving illegal drugs at the school.