



## **SCHOOL DRUGS AND DRUGS RELATED INCIDENT POLICY, INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**

### **Introduction:**

In the White Paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' the Government sets out a new strategy to combat drug misuse. School's clearly have a crucial role to play in educating young people on the consequences of drugs use and misuse.

In response to shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for welfare of its students, our family of schools takes a proactive stance, believing that Health Education is a vital part of the education of every student.

We believe that the role of drug education in schools should provide students with opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse and to ensure that they are equipped with the attitudes and skills they need to resist pressures to misuse drugs.

This policy is in line with recommendations made by the Department for Education and Skills Booklet 'Drugs Guidance for Schools ' (Feb 2004) and Local Education Authority guidelines.

### **AIMS:**

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos we aim to:

- Provide accurate information about drugs
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- Raise awareness of safety issues with regards to drugs
- Explore attitudes towards drug use and misuse
- Develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions
- Identify sources of appropriate personal support
- Work in partnership with parents/carers and with appropriate support agencies

Where there are specific incidents of substance misuse the school aims to:

- deal with them in a fair and just manner
- take appropriate action to ensure the smooth running of the school community
- ensure that help for any young people involved in an incident is considered, using appropriate support from outside agencies.
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face

### **Context:**

Drug Education forms a part if the statutory order for National Curriculum Science and will be provided in the broader context of the teaching of PSHCE and Citizenship. Other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum. This provision will be supported by the school's commitment to a health – promoting environment for all its staff and students and will take action to safeguard and promote their well being. The school condones neither the misuse of drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) by all members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

## **Curriculum**

### **Content:**

“Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Education- Curriculum Guidance for Schools at Key Stages 1-4” (QCA) has been broadly adopted and will be integrated into the schools curriculum planning. Visiting speakers contributing to this programme may include the Police School's Liaison Officer, School Nurse, Theatre Companies and representatives from other Drugs Agencies.

### **Drug Related Incidents:**

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and seeks to balance the interests of the student involved with other school members and the local community. An accurate record of each incident is submitted by the staff members involved to the **Headteacher**.

#### 1. Finding Drugs on the Premises

If cigarettes, solvents, alcohol, poppers or unprocessed magic mushrooms are discovered on the premises or children are found in possession, members of staff will confiscate these substances in the same way as they would confiscate any other item that is not allowed in school. If an illegal drug or unknown substance is found, it will be given to a Police Officer (possibly the School Police Liaison Officer) on the school premises.

#### 2. Children Misusing Drugs:

If a child is found using or suspected of using drugs, members of staff will seek medical help. The Headteacher will be informed of the situation and the parents/carers consulted at the earliest opportunity. The school and the parents/carers can then work together to support the young person involved. Referral to other agencies may be appropriate at this stage. There is no obligation for us to inform the police, but their support and advice will be sought where appropriate.

#### 3. Supplying On The Premises

All staff are aware of the fact that it is an offence to know about the supply of any illegal drug on the premises and not to take action. Where it is suspected that substances have been supplied or sold on the premises, details regarding those involved and any related incidents will be passed on to the police. In the case of a student known to have supplied drugs on the premises or to another student on his/her way to and from school, the headteacher will normally permanently exclude that student from the school.

### **Confidentiality**

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, students will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help retaining the trust of student's and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of inappropriate information is kept to a minimum.

### **Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers will be informed of incidents and concerns regarding student's drugs involvement if appropriate and if doing so does not place the student at risk. Parents/carers of students will be provided with further sources of information/support. Parents/carers will be invited into school for drug awareness events from time to time.

**Responding to the Media**

As drug related incidents are likely to generate media interest, all members of staff have been advised to not respond to journalist questions, but to refer journalists to the Headteacher. The Headteacher will make a considered response after seeking assistance from County Information Service at County Hall.

**Role and Responsibilities:**

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LEA and appropriate outside agencies.

The Headteacher will ensure that the school’s staff are adequately supported, made fully aware for the policy and that training takes place where appropriate.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated annually. Any suggested amendments will be taken into consideration and adopted where appropriate.

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... Headteacher

Signed: ..... Chair of Governors