



HARRODIAN

Drugs Policy

Introduction

"A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave." (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and medicines.

The majority of young people of school age have never used an illegal drug. Of those who do experiment with illegal drugs very few will go on to become problem drug users. However, most will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco and alcohol. Every school therefore has a responsibility to consider its response to drugs and all schools are expected to have a policy which sets out the school's role in relation to all drug matters. (*Drugs: Guidance for Schools DFES 2004*).

Purpose

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- * Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- * Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- * Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community.
- * Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- * Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.
- * Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- * Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorized drugs.
- * Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

School Advice on Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco and Other Substances which may be misused

Students are forbidden to be under the influence of or to have in their possession any of the items listed below at any time when they are under the jurisdiction of the school, including on their journeys to and from school or any other time when they are identifiable as a member of the school community:

- Tobacco or tobacco products.
- Alcohol.
- Any dangerous or classified drug or steroid, unless it has been prescribed by a doctor and the School Nurse notified.
- Any other illegal substance and legal substances which can be abused. Aerosols e.g. spray paints and solvent-based markers are forbidden in school because of the risk of provoking attacks for asthma sufferers.

Pupils are regularly reminded about this policy in year and school assemblies and are made fully aware of the consequences.

Procedure for Dealing with Drug and Substance Related Incidents.

- * Students are advised to report any concerns about substance abuse to staff, in the interest of the individuals involved and of the school community as a whole.
- * Any member of staff who has reason to believe that a student is in possession of, using, or supplying illegal drugs, will report the matter immediately to the Headmaster, or in his absence, to the Deputy Headmistress or Head of Seniors.
- * An investigation will be arranged and the Senior staff involved will report their findings to the Headmaster, Deputy or Head of Seniors with all due dispatch.
- * Once the matter has been investigated, the student or students involved will be interviewed.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and in dealing with drug related incidents the school's primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole. **Therefore, a student found with, using, or supplying an illegal drug will be permanently excluded.**

- * The Headmaster, or other member of staff delegated by him, may wish to seek advice from appropriate agencies including Social Services, Police, a counsellor etc.
- * The school regards itself as having pastoral responsibility towards students even when they have been excluded. Where appropriate, the School will encourage students and their parents to seek professional help with substance abuse issues.

Education

As part of our PSHE programme, pupils will be provided with drug education so they can make well-informed decisions with their increased knowledge. We shall follow national guidelines to ensure our students receive age appropriate training.

Training of Staff

Staff will need the relevant training and support to be able to deliver our drugs programme in PSHE effectively. Not only will this give staff the confidence to do this but also to deal with any incidents involving drugs, should they arise.

Involvement of Parents

A workshop for parents on drugs awareness will be held once a term.

We encourage parents to come to us if they have any queries or concerns related to drugs and we shall keep parents informed of any changes to our policies and drugs education programmes.

Random Checks

Although it is not Harrodian practice to regularly search individual pupils, the school reserves the right to ask individual students to assist us in our investigations and in our drive to maintain the school as a hazard free environment. The school may therefore, when deemed appropriate, request a student to display their personal belongings and demonstrate that they are not acting contrary to the above advice.

Links to other policies

Please refer to the school's following policies: Behaviour Policy and Health & Safety Policy.

Reference

Staff may find the QCA document, "Drug, alcohol and tobacco education" a useful tool for curriculum guidance at Key Stages 1-4.

Person responsible for Drugs Policy: H. Locke

Last updated: September 2017

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