



Downend School

DOWNEND SCHOOL

Drugs and Drug Related Incidents Policy

Reviewed: November 2010 HR Committee
Ratified: December 2010
To be reviewed: November 2012

Introduction

This policy has been updated following the publication of the new Drugs in Schools guidance 2004.

In addition, the following guidance has been consulted whilst revising the policy;

- South Gloucestershire Local Authority Young Peoples Needs Assessment 2007-08
- South Gloucestershire Suggested Actions 2008
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco education: National curriculum guidance for schools at key stage 3-4 (QCA 2008)
- National Curriculum 2008 Statutory Science Orders
- National Healthy School Programme Guidance – www.healthyschools.gov.uk
- Crime recording in schools Home Office, ACPO and DFE 2004

The aims of this policy are to clarify the responsibilities of the school taking into account local and national guidance:

- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Respond to any individual within the school community in need of support
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.
- Establish an atmosphere/environment/situation in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND STAFF TRAINING

Definition – What is a Drug?

A drug is a substance, which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way the body works.

The policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. The school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely, and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work.

Rationale

Current research indicates that drug use both legal and illegal has risen amongst young people. As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate young people about drug use. Drugs are a reality in young people's lives; schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills. We also believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned.

CONTENT

Drug education at Downend aims to enable all our pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills. It will also enable pupils to identify sources of confidential advice and support as school staff are unable to guarantee absolute confidence in serious cases of drug misuse.

The programme we follow will be based on national guidelines provided by the DFE and will be sensitive to the age and experience of our pupils. It will be delivered through the PDC and Immersion Day curriculum, following the National Curriculum Science Order and Personal, Social, Health and Education. Downend Drug Education Lessons are available on the S drive.

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils. It will be delivered through the curriculum in a variety of ways. All staff involved will be provided with adequate training and support to help them deliver effective drug education and respond to situations with consistency and sensitivity, taking account of religious, social and cultural issues. As part of staff induction and on-going training, we will contact the LA school drug advisor for details of training programmes, including INSET training events.

Outside agencies such as the Police, Connexions, Young Peoples' Drug & Alcohol Service, school health nurse and other professionals will be used to complement the programme, following the guidelines for working with outside agencies.

The programme will be evaluated on a regular basis through pupil feedback and staff discussions.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

This school believes we should be a drug free community. Illegal or illicit substances should not be brought into school and any use or supply of drugs on the school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

A drug related incident is when one or more of the following applies:

- Possession of any drug with the suspected intention to misuse.
- Misuse of drugs on school premises.
- Supply/dealing drugs for the purpose of misuse.

Designated members of staff will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies, including the media.

The designated members of staff coordinating are Assistant Head, Inclusion and Assistant Head, Safeguarding.

Appropriate sanctions will be applied following a drug related incident. The sanctions will take into account the schools behaviour policy and DFE guidance and may include permanent exclusion.

The school will decide when and if to inform the Police (in accordance with Police guidelines). All drug related incidents will be investigated fully and recorded.

Evidence of drug use by a pupil or possession of a substance will not necessarily result in automatic exclusion. Each case will be assessed and different levels of sanctions will be used according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil's involvement. Avon and Somerset Police guidance 2008 indicates 'There is no legal obligation on schools or colleges to inform the Police about drug related incidents or to disclose the name of a pupil involved in a drug incident on their premises, the main priority of the school will be to ensure that they keep the child included and engaged and not excluded. 'South Gloucestershire summary of actions will provide guidance on when the Police should be involved.

Advice and Support for Pupils

Information about local support services will be provided for pupils and parents but staff of the school will not give individual advice to pupils about their personal drug use. All young people can be referred to South Gloucestershire's Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service on 01454 868763 for advice, information, support and counselling.

