



Dorset Education Partnership

FERNDOWN UPPER SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Policy first adopted June 2012

To be reviewed every 3 years

Reviewed: June 2015

Reviewed: June 2018

Reviewed:

Reviewed:

Reviewed:

Reviewed:

Reviewed:

1. Aims

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum which will develop students' self-esteem; promote positive attitudes in their relationships with others; give students the opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding to make informed and responsible decisions about the use/misuse of drugs including tobacco, alcohol, intoxicants and volatile substances, within the context of a healthy lifestyle; help students to develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative influences and pressures.
- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.
- To provide appropriate training and support to enable staff to deliver the drug education programme and be familiar with the procedures for dealing with suspected drug misuse on the School premises.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Students

- Be aware of, and strictly, adhere to the School Rules in relation to the possession of drugs, supplying of drugs, as well as drug use/misuse.

All staff

- Be alert to the possibility of drug use.
- Be familiar with the procedures in the handling of suspected drug-related incidents.

Parents

- Be aware of the Drug Education programme and the Drug Education policy.
- Be aware that in dealing with drug use/misuse the School is obliged to inform external agencies such as the Dorset Police.
- Support the School in handling suspected incidents of drug use/misuse.

Premises & site staff

- Be vigilant and conduct regular checks of the School premises for any type of drug and/or drug related paraphernalia.
- Inform the Deputy Head if drugs or paraphernalia are found.
- Ensure the safe storage, handling and disposal of potentially harmful substances such as solvents and cleaning fluids.

3. Rationale and Key Principles

Inclusive definition of drugs

We define a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Rationale/key principles

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

Boundaries, including relevance of the policy to school trips and visits

The legal definition of premises of the school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time of e.g premises of a school trip or visit.

4. Drug Education

Context

We will provide all students with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) delivered on drop down days.

Ethos

Drug education in our school aims to enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and will be appropriate to the age and experience of our students.

Content and delivery

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values.

5. Classification of drugs

Students, staff and parents are made aware of the school's drug policy. All parents can access a copy of this on our school website.

- **Medicines**

The school has a policy for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

- **Alcohol**

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except in the following circumstances...

- In preparation for school functions when alcohol may be stored securely on the premises.
- When consumed at functions outside school hours for over 18 year olds (the organiser will be responsible).
- With written permission from the Head teacher.

Parents and visitors whose behaviour is considered to be putting the safety of the children at risk will be asked to leave the premises. Refusal to do so will result in the police being called.

- **Tobacco**

The school and grounds is a no smoking area at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches, lighters and e-cigarettes. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents will be informed. These items will be returned to the parents.

- **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of 'sniffable' products.

- **Illegal drugs**

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought onto, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community, regular checks will be made of the site.

5. Management of Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use.

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them and will work in line with national and local guidance as outlined in the Department for Education's "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" 2004 policy document.

The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of all of the individuals within the school community and therefore the school will always apply a zero tolerance approach (e.g. permanent exclusion) to supplying, handling and taking drugs on the school site.

These offences will be deemed to be 'a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy' and the school feels that they do 'place other students in the school at risk' because not punishing actions such as these will result in more drugs coming onto the school site, thereby putting all students at a greater risk of drug exposure.

There will be no exceptions to this rule for the offences of supplying drugs on the school site, taking drugs on the school site or two or more occurrences of handling drugs.

For handling drugs (first offence) and taking drugs off the school site the school may decide that mitigating circumstances may mean that the sanction is commuted down to a fifteen day fixed term exclusion with the students involved being issued with a C9 final warning from a school governor.

The Deputy Head, will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents.

Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Head teacher.

Procedures**• Medical emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required.

• Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Parents of students will normally be informed and other professionals may be informed or consulted as appropriate. The school will then seek permanent exclusion.

- **Support for students**

Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral to Shadows.

- **Disciplinary responses and sanctions**

See School's Behaviour Policy.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded on G4S.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, particularly when seeking support, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the student in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Staff training and support

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Deputy Head, or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

Links to other policies

Please refer to: Behaviour/discipline, PSHE & Citizenship, Medicines, Health & Safety, Child Protection, Equal Opportunities, Procedures for external trips and visits.

Dissemination, monitoring and evaluation

A copy of this policy is available on the school website. It is also available on request from the school office and all staff and governors have been informed of this. It will be widely publicised, included in induction of new staff and supply teachers and monitored for effective use.

The policy will be reviewed as required. This review will take into account the usefulness and effectiveness of the policy using comments and observations from the school community as well as any changes or recommendations related to national findings and recommended good practice around drug education and management of incidents.

Appendix 1. Useful Organisations

DCC Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)

Tel: 01305 224100

ADFAM

Adfam offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Adfam, 25 Corsham Street, London N1 6DR

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Drinkaware

An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimize alcohol related harm.

7-10 Chandos Street, London W1G 9DQ

Tel: 020 7307 7450

Drug Education Forum (DEF)

A forum of national organisations in England which provide drug education to children and young people or offer a service to those who do.

c/o Mentor UK, 4th Floor, 74 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3JG Tel: 020 7739 8494 Website: www.drugeducationforum.co.uk

Drinkline

A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282

(lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Concern

This organisation provides a helpline, support groups and training for parents and carers concerned about their child's drug use.

Tel: 0845 120 3745 (Mon-Thurs 9am to 5pm; Fri 9am to 4.30pm; answerphone service out of hours)

DrugScope

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Prince Consort House, Suite 204 (2nd Floor), 109/111 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3BW

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

Talk to FRANK

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide details of sources of information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 77 66 00 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Schools can receive free FRANK resource materials, updates and newsletters by registering at <http://ddshl.broadsystem.com/freeleaflets.aspx>