

Drug Education Policy

Date Policy due to be reviewed: July 2017

Committee Responsible for Policy: Full Governing Body Committee

Drug and drug education in the context of this document are inclusive terms including tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, medicines and other substances such as solvents.

A teacher of drug education does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach which is crucial to this area of learning.

Successful drug education should start early; the key to which is developing pupils/students' life skills.

Section 1: Context of policy

The Drugs Education policy forms part of our wider safeguarding provision designed to protect pupils and their families. It links specifically to our whole school behaviour, health and safety, safeguarding, school visits and healthy school policies.

This policy applies to all pupils, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members attending the school or whilst on school business including off-site visits and trips, work experience placements and interviews.

Definitions

Where this policy refers to drugs, this includes tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances (legal highs) and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

Roles and responsibilities

- The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure all safeguarding policies are updated with current guidance and that all aspects of key policies are fully implemented by all members of the school staff.
- The Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) is responsible for co-ordinating the whole school drugs awareness programme, Liaising with Community Police to agree a shared approach to dealing with drugs-related incidents, ensuring staff receive appropriate annual training on drugs-related issues and updating the Governing Body on drugs issues as part of the Annual Safeguarding report.

Location and dissemination of policy

The policy can be located in the school website for pupils, parents and staff to access. Key aspects of the policy are shared with staff as part of our annual safeguarding training and reviewed by the School Council each year.

Section 2: Principles of policy

- Hillcrest School is committed to the Health and Safety of all its staff and pupils and we believe that we have a duty to support and safeguard the well-being of such.
- As a school we are clear our view that illegal and all other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable, under any circumstances, on the school site or on occasions when students and staff engage in off-site activities.

- The school values the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils, and through the general ethos of the school, we seek to encourage and develop young people's learning and ensure support appropriate to their needs is provided.
- Education about drugs is not concerned merely with substance, but with people in their social settings and therefore should involve the development of attitudes, values and the development of skills, as much as the acquisition of appropriate knowledge.
- Pupils affected by their own or other's drugs misuse have early access to support through the school and other local services.
- Families have an important role to play in supporting the provision of drug education, especially in helping a young person examine their attitude to drugs. Our approach and rationale is explained to parents/carers to gain their understanding and support.
- Drug issues and concerns extend across socio-economic and ethnic boundaries, and pupils of all ages and abilities will encounter both the positive and negative effects of drugs, as used legally in medicine to aid recovery, or illegal use. Many pupils/students have some knowledge about illegal drugs through the media, "street talk", and personal experience. The school welcomes and encourages parent/carer and community involvement in the development of school policy and curriculum delivery.

Policy Aims:

- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop.
- To ensure all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, the expectations about their behaviour, and the policy regarding drug incidents and concerns about individuals.
- To promote clarity about the management of drug related incidents in the school.
- To encourage and enable pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.
- To enable pupils to make reasoned, informed choices.
- To minimise pupils experimentation with illegal or harm causing substances.
- To address and take account of local community needs, including the differences and diversity within the school community.
- To support and engage parents/carers and pupils in their own personal learning and responsibilities.
- To enable young people and staff to access support structures (including the voluntary sector), e.g. Aquarius counselling, and treatment.
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for students.
- To work with outside agencies, including the voluntary sector, to secure and support a balanced delivery of a drugs education programme, e.g. Community Drug Education Co-ordinators, other schools, Healthy Schools Schemes, Health Promotion, Primary Health Care professionals, and Community Police.

Objectives for Drug Education:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self esteem.
- To engage parents/carers in the school community and learning process.
- To enable pupils and staff to access support if they have concerns about their own or others' drug use.

Section 3: Teaching and Learning

In addition to Science, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSD) and Health Awareness extra-curricular events provide opportunities for drugs education. PSD is described as a framework that is non-statutory.

As part of the staff CPD programme specific training is delivered to staff on up-to-date guidance on drugs-related issued and the types of drugs pupils may refer to in PSD lessons and the wider curriculum. The training is delivered by the Community Police Team and School Nurse Services

Pupil Knowledge and Understanding

Pupils are taught within the guidance of the National Curriculum (science programme of study, and the guidance for PSHE and Citizenship). This includes:

<i>Key Stage</i>	<i>Learning Objective</i>	<i>Learning Outcome</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>To know the dangers from household substances, if they are not used as instructed</i>	<i>I can identify different household substances and know that if they are not used properly, they can be dangerous</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>To know that there are different names given to drugs</i>	<i>I know the scientific names for drugs and that they also have other, common names</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>To understand that people can become dependent on some drugs and that there is help available to them</i>	<i>I know what drug dependency means and how it affects people's lives. I know where to go to get help locally</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>To explore a range of attitudes towards alcohol use</i>	<i>I recognise that different people have different attitudes towards alcohol and why they might feel this way</i>

Attitudes, Values and Skills:

Pupils are taught:

- To value and trust in their own learning through positive reflections and development of assertiveness and coping skills.
- Confidence building and communication skills.
- About themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making positive changes and setting personal goals.
- To recognise risky behaviour and risk taking within different situations and be able to respond appropriately.
- That pressure to behave inappropriately or to take risks can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, TV and the media.
- How to seek/ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting peer or unwanted pressure in order to minimise harm to themselves or others.
- That their actions affect themselves and others, to respect and care about other people's feelings, trying to see things from their point of view.
- That communication and problem solving skills are central to bringing about a positive change in attitudes and actions.

In teaching drug education, teachers use a range of teaching strategies, including role-play, discussion group work, draw and write, debate and circle time. The use of circle time is a key strategy for developing life skills.

Resources:

- Teaching resources are up to date, differentiated and culturally and age appropriate.
- The school allocates adequate funding to Drug Education provision.
- Adequate staff resources, development and training are provided to address identified needs.

Cross-curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with Science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSD), and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the schools' ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as geography and physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Differentiation and Additional Educational Needs (SEND)

Whilst some pupils may have a fairly broad knowledge and insight into the world of drugs, there are those who have little or no knowledge at all. Teachers need to be sensitive to this issue and that lessons are planned to take account of pupils' age, culture, experience and maturity. The needs of pupils with SEND will be taken into account by the teacher who may need to provide different resources, different activities or specific support to some pupils. Where pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEP) identify targets relating to their personal development, the teacher will ensure that opportunities are planned to support pupils in achieving these.

Section 4: Drug Awareness sessions / events delivered by external agencies

Drugs Education is a shared responsibility and we work closely with external agencies in providing effective and relevant drugs education for our young people.

Visitors from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies support and enhance our drug education provision as part of the PSD programme. However, we recognise that they cannot be relied upon solely to deliver drugs education at Hillcrest. The use of visitors is part of a planned, coherent and integrated approach. The checklist below shows the factors the school considers when developing a partnership approach to drugs education delivery and support for young people:

Before involving a visitor it is useful to consider the following:

- Consistency with school's ethos, values, drug policy and approach to drugs education.
- The most appropriate source of information/support – why do we want the agency's involvement?
- Will their work be age-appropriate and sensitive to the needs of different ethnic and religious groups in our school community?
- What is the visitor expected to do?
- What will the teacher's contribution to the session be?
- Has the visitor been checked appropriately prior to visiting the school?
- Have confidentiality issues been clarified, avoiding inappropriate disclosures?
- How will the session be followed up?
- How will the input be evaluated?
- Is parental consent required?

Support and guidance for pupils

- As a school we ensure that pupils have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information on sources of help and support. This includes local and national helplines, youth community and drugs services. Information is displayed in 'The Zone' and 'Student Reception'. Further support can all be accessed through the School Nurse Service each week

Section 5: Searching and Confiscation

- The 2006 Education and Inspections Act enables a member of staff to search a pupil if the school is concerned the pupil is carrying, using or supplying any form of illegal substance on the school site or to and from school. At Hillcrest such searches will only be carried out with the consent of the student with the parent / carer being informed if appropriate or necessary.
- Any searches are to be carried out in the presence of a senior member of staff in the company of a witness. Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school will keep an accurate record of the pupil searched, the reason for the search, the time and place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow up action.
- If a student refuses permission for a search then, depending upon the nature of the suspicion, either or both the police and the parents / carers will be contacted.
- The 2006 Education and Inspections Act enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.
- Where a member of staff finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental. This includes new psychoactive drugs or 'legal highs'. If the school is unable to identify the legal status of a drug, we will treat it as a controlled drug.
- Pupils found in possession of illegal substances may be permanently excluded from school or face a lengthy fixed term exclusion at the discretion of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. The school will consider the wider implications and taken personal circumstances into account before making a final disciplinary decision.

Controlled drugs

After searching and confiscating an illegal substance, staff will take the following precautions if the substance is a suspected controlled drug:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout the search
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure
- Store it in a secure location with limited access other members of staff
- Notify the police without delay and, as advised, provide the police with the name of the student(s) and relevant information on how it was seized
- Record full details of the incident, including the police reference number
- Inform parents / carers, unless it is not in the best interests of the pupil
- Refer to other appropriate external services, ie – Children's Social Care if the pupil is classed as a 'Child in Need'

Legal drugs

- Although we are not required to contact the police regarding incidents of legal drugs (ie – tobacco and alcohol), we will contact the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances to pupils in the local area.
- The school recognises that the minimum age for smoking is 18 and we adhere to smoke free legislation. For example, the school is smoke free site and guidance is provided for all member of the school community in helping them to quit smoking.
- Young people are becoming aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances.

These are designed to mimic the effect of legal drugs. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. Such drugs are classed as ‘unauthorised substances’ and will be treated by the school as a controlled drug.

Informing parents

- We are not legally required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child.
- Although there is no legal requirement to do so, the school will normally notify parents where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found.
- If parents are unhappy that their child has been searched without their consent they should register their concern through the school’s complaints procedures.

Responding to drugs incidents

- If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school site, we will prioritise the safety of the pupil and others around them. If deemed necessary we will deal with the issue as a medical emergency, administer first aid and contact local health services for further guidance.
- Parents will be immediately contacted and asked to take their child from school. The police will be contacted and, if the pupil is felt to be at significant risk, we will contact Children’s Social Care to register our concerns.

Section 6: Pupils whose parents / carers or family members misuse drugs

- If a pupil discloses or we suspect that illegal substances are used in the family home, we will contact Children’s Social Care to take advice on the most appropriate course of action to support their child and the family. If we feel the child is at risk of significant harm from circumstances in the family, we will follow standard safeguarding practices and make a direct referral to Children’s Social Care.
- Confidentiality: Standard protocols relating to confidentiality will apply if a pupil makes a disclosure based around any form of drugs-related issue.
- As a school we will work with pupils and their families to access appropriate support in the local community in any drugs-related incident, ie – Aquarius.

Section 7: Managing medicines

- Some pupils require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. This information is stored and updated on our ‘School Medical List’ and circulated to staff as it is amended throughout the year. A central copy is located in the staffroom.
- Parents are required to notify the school of any medical conditions requiring medication during the school day. Medication is to be brought into school by parents and stored safely in the safe in student reception. Pupils can then access medication throughout the day in a secure and safe manner from a trained first aider.

- Under no circumstances should pupils carry any form of medication, during the school day, that the school is not previously aware of. This poses a serious threat to the pupil in question and any other pupils that may either intentionally or accidentally share the medication. For example, pupils should not share aspirin with as they are unaware of the potential side effects.
- Pupils found sharing such medication may face the possibility of a Fixed Term Exclusion from school for breaching health and safety guidance and potentially putting other pupils at risk.
- If a pupil requiring medication goes on a school trip or visit, parents are responsible for ensuring the school has the appropriate medication required prior to the trip. Staff supervising the trip are made aware of the frequency and amount of medication needed and administer as necessary.

Section 8: Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing of the school policy:

- The Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) is the named co-ordinator and works with the link Governor for safeguarding to develop this policy.
- Senior managers are involved in monitoring and evaluation.
- Pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors are consulted and the programme and policy is modified where appropriate.
- There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.
- Drug education is reviewed in line with current LEA and Government guidelines.

Policy Reviewed –July 2016

Review Date – July 2017