

Furze Platt Senior School



Drugs Policy

AIMS OF THE POLICY

Drug Education at Furze Platt Senior School

Aims

To equip students/students with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle in line with the outcomes of Every Child Matters.

We aim to help students to become more confident and responsible young people. We aim to equip the students with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Objectives of our Drug Education programme are:

- To help students respect their own bodies and in doing so reduce the likelihood that they will become involved in drug abuse.
- To emphasise personal safety, personal health and responsibility.
- To develop self confidence and a high self esteem so that they can make sensible and informed decisions about their lives.
- To provide opportunities for students to practise and develop skills needed to cope in a society where there are drugs (assertiveness, critical thinking skills, decision-making skills, maintaining healthy relationships).
- To recognise personal qualities in themselves and in others and develop the motivation to succeed.
- To provide access to reliable up to date information about drugs including medicine and legal drugs.
- To provide students with the knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on peoples' lives.
- To let students know what to do if they come across drugs or are aware of other people misusing drugs.
- To enable students to discuss moral questions relating to drug taking and so provide a safe environment for them to share thoughts and ideas and to explore attitudes to drug taking.

Managing drug-related incidents

Defining an incident at Furze Platt Senior School

We have defined a drug-related incident as:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on the school premises.
- A student found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia.
- A student thought to be under the influence of drugs.
- A student discloses that they (or a family member/friend) are misusing drugs.
- A student is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises.
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale/supply of drugs is taking place in the local area.

The main concerns in the management of all incidents are the preservation of the health and safety of all students as well as to ensure that learning is optimised.

The Policy applies to:

- All legal and illegal drugs and medicines.
- All students, staff and visitors to the school.
- The school premises including at the school gates.
- Students' journeys between home and school.
- Educational visits, residential courses, work experience and extra-curricular activities.
- At the time when the school is considered to be 'in loco parentis'.

The school rules regarding drugs

Students are made aware that all drugs and medicines must be managed by designated staff and that they must only be brought onto the school premises with teachers' knowledge and approval.

The possession, use or supply of any drug is regarded as a breach of the school rules. Offences are likely to lead to fixed term or permanent exclusion.

The exceptions to this are:

- The use of medicines by students with parental consent and knowledge of the school nurse (or equivalent).
- The appropriate use of medicines by staff.
- The smoking of tobacco by staff on journeys to and from school.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff and visitors during social occasions on the premises outside school hours.

Any information about illegal drugs or the illicit sale of legal drugs outside the scope of this policy as listed above will be passed onto the police. This includes the sale of tobacco, solvents or alcohol to under age students and information about the use, possession or supply of illegal drugs.

Appendix 1: About the Policy

Definition of Drugs

For the purpose of this policy, the word 'drugs' refers to any mood altering substance: all legal drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, all illegal drugs, volatile substances/solvents and gases, anabolic steroids and alkyl nitrates (poppers). It also includes all over the counter and prescription medicines.

Location and dissemination of the Policy

The policy can be found in the central policy file and on the website. It has been disseminated to all staff and students through PSHEE lessons.

People involved in producing this Policy

The following people are involved in the consultation process – students, parents, governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, local agencies.

External guidance used

The following national and local guidance documents have been used to draw up this Policy: Royal Borough protocol for managing recording and reporting drug related incidents (2004) DfES/2004 document 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' (maroon A4 book).

Other related school Policies

This Policy should be read and implemented in line with school policies on the following: Behaviour Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Child Protection Policy, Medicines Policy, PSHE Policy and Educational Visits Policy.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Headteacher, the Lead Governor and the Drugs Coordinator will monitor the drugs education programme, they will report to the Pupils and Parents Governors' Committee annually. The Policy will be updated and modified as required.

Staff training

All staff are provided with training to ensure they are aware of the aims and scope of the Policy.

Roles and responsibilities

- i. Governing Body – has a general responsibility for the management of the school. Its role is to ratify the policy and support the school, the Headteacher, the drugs coordinator and the staff in its implementation as a whole school issue.
- ii. Headteacher - role is to support the drugs coordinator in the implementation of policy and to be the 'public face' of the school with regard to drugs issues, e.g. with the media.
- iii. The PSHE coordinator – role/responsibilities are to
 - manage, support, monitor, evaluate and review the school's drug education programme.
 - ensure the drug education programme is adequately resourced.
 - keep up to date, informed, trained about local/national developments and relay these to relevant staff.

- in consultation with the Assistant Head - student support, ensure staff receive appropriate training.
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 - The Assistant Head – Student Support will:-
 - provide confidential support for staff involved with drug education and drug-related incidents.
 - ensure records of all drug-related incidents are kept and stored centrally
 - liaise with feeder schools/partner schools to ensure continuity/progression/consistency with regard to the programme and responses to incidents.
 - keep the Headteacher informed of developments.
- iv. Other staff – all staff within school will implement the Policy and will keep the Assistant Head – Student Support informed about drug-related issues.
- v. Parents – the school is aware that parents have a primary role in the drugs education of their children. Parents should be involved by:
- Being informed of our Policy.
 - Being informed of best practice with regard to drugs education so that they can support the key messages being given to students.
 - Being able to ask questions and raise issues regarding their Policy and practice.

Appendix 2: Implementation of Drugs Education

Implementation

We offer a continuous drug education programme as part of the whole school approach to PSHE, with some input in each year of the school. The delivery occurs in class teaching, national curriculum PSHE, tutorial time, assemblies, presentations by visitors, workshops and other visits. The programme is based upon the DfES guidance, the National Curriculum Science requirements and the PSHE framework.

The following principles are applied to each unit/session of drug education:

- At the start of the programme or session ground rules are negotiated with students.
- An assessment of where the students are at (knowledge, interest, anxieties) takes place before a unit is taught.
- A range of teaching methods is used all of which encourage active participation by the students.
- Information about drugs is up to date, accurate and unbiased.
- Opportunities for reflection/self assessment are built into the programme.

Confidentially issues

The issues of confidentiality, disclosure, and child protection may need to be addressed when negotiating ground rules with students. The current advice from the DfES is that teachers can 'offer no guarantee of confidentiality'. Staff refer to the Drugs Coordinator if concerned about issues raised.

Resources

The following resources are used in the programme.

Use of external agencies/visiting speakers

Agencies/speakers support the delivery of the drugs education programme e.g. the police and Turning Point.

The following principles apply to the use of outside speakers/external agencies

- They and the students are briefed about their input.
- Students and staff review their contributions after a session.
- A member of staff is present for all visitors' presentations.

Evaluation of the drugs education programme is carried out with students and staff, at appropriate points during the programme, and at the end of each year. Students are asked for feedback on what they have learned, how useful they have found it and what they still need to know/understand/explore/develop.

Appendix 3: Dealing with Drugs Related Incidents

Procedure for managing a drug related incident

If illegal drugs are found or suspected at school, or if a student is possibly under the influence of an unknown drug the procedure is as follows:

1. If medical help is needed, seek or provide it at once.
2. Confiscate any drug (ensuring that you have a witness), ask what it is, in case a doctor needs to know.
 - a. Give sample to ambulance crew/hospital if required or
 - b. store substance, record carefully.
3. Inform Headteacher/Drugs Coordinator
4. Determine how serious the incident is.

Is it an accident? A mistake? Deliberate?
Does it involve possession? Taking a drug? Other students?
5. Assess the student's need in terms of education, support, sanctions.

What can be learned from the incident?
What support is needed and what is an appropriate sanction?
6. Consider the needs of any other students involved or implicated.
7. Inform the parents (unless child's safety is put at risk by doing so).
8. Consider informing other agencies e.g. police, LEA.
9. Complete Drug Related Incidents Form as appropriate and send to LEA.

Responses following assessment

At Furze Platt Senior School we have applied the Behaviour Policy to drug-related incidents and the following responses are likely to occur:

- Early intervention
- Referral
- Counselling of individual
- Behaviour contract
- PSP
- Fixed-period exclusion

Further Guidance

Searching a Student

Staff are not allowed to search a student if suspected of concealing unauthorised drugs. Encourage the student to voluntarily hand over any drugs. If a personal search is needed and the drug suspected is illegal the police must be called and parents informed. Staff may search lockers with the students' consent.

Confiscation and storage of drugs (or paraphernalia) found

Staff can take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being illegal for the purpose of protection. Confiscated drugs will be placed securely in the safe and disposed of by police.

Assessment of the substance

- i. At the assessment stage a decision will be made whether the sample will be destroyed or handed to the police. If it is destroyed, a signed witnessed statement must be made to this effect.

- ii. If legal action expected or if a sanction such as permanent exclusion is likely to be imposed, forensic testing by the police will be necessary.
- iii. If the sample proves to be a legal/authorised drug it may be returned to the parents.

Police Involvement

The school liaises closely with the local police. If an incident involving illegal drugs arises the school may contact the designated officer to discuss the case and seek advice without naming the student.

NOTE

There is no legal obligation to inform the police of an incident but it is good practice to contact the designated officer with whom a relationship has been built to discuss a case and ask for advice without need to divulge a student's name.