



Drugs Policy

Furze Platt Senior School DRUGS POLICY

Rationale

At Furze Platt Senior School we aim for young people to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Aims:

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, 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 develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

Key roles and responsibilities

The Assistant Headteacher (Student Support) is responsible for drug related issues within the school.

Inclusive definition of drugs

Furze Platt Senior School defines 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.

Drug Education

- **Context**
We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) programme.
- **Ethos**
Our Drugs education programme aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and be appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.
- **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 pupils. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values.
- **Use of visitors and outside speakers**
We use visitors to support our planned teacher led programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Managing drug related incidents: routine arrangements

- **Medicines**
The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Our practice is in line with guidance as recommended by *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions DfE 2014*

- **Alcohol**
Pupils are not allowed to bring in alcohol on the school. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school.
- **Tobacco**
The school is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including school vehicles - at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.
- **Solvents**
The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.
- **Illegal drugs**
No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A pupil who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug;
- 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;
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use;
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use.

Guiding principles

- A designated member of staff (Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)) is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in exclusion.
- The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

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. The priority will be the pupil's safety.
- **Individuals in possession of drugs**
If any pupil or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If necessary a search of the individual will be conducted (as outlined in the school's behaviour policy.) If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. 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. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation. Parents of pupils will be informed and other professionals from the LA,

Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, Youth Service, Police, Health Service, Social Service etc may be informed or consulted as appropriate.

- **Support for pupils**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of pupils will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil 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.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded. Records will be stored securely in the pupil's file.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a pupil discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the pupil 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 school drugs coordinator, or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

Links to other policies

See also the school's Behaviour Management policy, Anti-Bullying policy, Curriculum policy (section on PSHCE), Health & Safety policy.

Appendix 1: About the Policy

Roles and responsibilities

- i. Governing Body – role is to ratify the policy and support the Headteacher in its implementation as a whole school issue.
- ii. Headteacher - role is to support the Assistant Headteacher (Student Support) in the implementation of the 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 Headteacher (Student Support), ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- iv. The Assistant Headteacher (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.
- v Other staff – all staff within school will implement the Policy and will keep the Assistant Head – Student Support informed about drug related issues.
- vi 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.