

COGNITA  
TEACHING EXCELLENCE



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

# **Safeguarding: Drug & Alcohol Abuse Policy**

**September 2016**

## Safeguarding: Drug & Alcohol Abuse

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The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and to ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident.

### Aims:

- ✓ The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community
- ✓ To ensure that pupils have the knowledge and self-confidence to make informed choices in relation to the use and abuse of drugs and/or solvents
- ✓ To provide opportunities for pupils to develop personal skills that help them resist the inappropriate use of drugs and/or solvents
- ✓ To share relevant information with the wider community
- ✓ To provide information about specialist support that is available for families, should it be required.
- ✓ This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the School Behaviour Policy.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the PSHCE Policy, Health and Safety Policy and Behaviour Policy.

As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils will be reminded of this policy on an annual basis.

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport, as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/residentials, etc.

### Definition

'Drugs' are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed drugs, and also illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, etc.

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits.

### Drug Education

The school provides a planned Drug Education curriculum through the following:

The National Curriculum Science Order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education:

- i. Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds, should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.

- ii. PSHE reflects other discretionary topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills. This will:
- ✓ Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
  - ✓ Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
  - ✓ Provide accurate information about substances
  - ✓ Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
  - ✓ Widen understanding about related health and social issues
  - ✓ Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug-education but, where appropriate, outside visitors and agencies may make a contribution. Such visitors will be used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice and support.

### Statutory duty of the school

The Headmaster takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. The Headmaster will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

The school will not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g., the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved and as much information as possible, will be passed on to the police.

### Implementation of the policy

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows. It should be noted that, when dealing with drug-related incidents, the school will adopt the following procedures as laid out in “The Right Responses” document:

- ✓ Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Health & Safety Policy document.
- ✓ In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits, etc., the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken; parents/carers will be informed by the Headmaster as soon as possible.
- ✓ If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the Headmaster, who will inform the parents/carers.
- ✓ While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the Headmaster in consultation with staff who know the young person well.
- ✓ Anyone found in possession of or using illegal drugs on the school premises or during a school activity can usually expect to be immediately and permanently excluded from school.
- ✓ The Headmaster will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required.