

RED ROSE SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

Updated: October 2017

Sec 2 Chapter

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Policy to be reviewed annually. Designated Person: Gill Makinson

Policy based on: DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools – September 2012 and FRANK

The Role of Schools

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the Government's Drug Strategy 2010 ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

Searching and Confiscation

Advice on searching and confiscations can be found in Screening, searching and confiscation; advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies.

Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school is advised to make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action. There is no legal requirement to do this.

DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools – September 2012

General power to confiscate

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person 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 to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Involving parents and dealing with complaints

Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child. There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search.

Schools would normally inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.

Working with the Police

A senior member of staff who is responsible for the school's drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents. This approach should be updated as part of a regular review of the policy.

Legal drugs

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but schools may wish to inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances should be included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Controlled drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

Drug Dogs and Drug Testing

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) recommends that drug dogs and drug testing should not be used for searches where there is no evidence for the presence of drugs on school premises. However schools may choose to make use of drug dogs or drug testing strategies if they wish. It is advisable that the school consults with the local police.

Responding to Drug Related Incidents

School staff are best placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs within their school. This is most effective when:

- it is supported by the whole school community;
- drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE education delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary;
- staff have access to high quality training and support.

Schools should ensure that pupils have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information on sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services and drug services. These sources can be used as part of, or in addition to, the school's own drug and alcohol education.

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

When evaluating the behaviour and safety of pupils under the new Ofsted inspection framework, inspectors will consider pupils' ability to assess and manage risk appropriately and to keep themselves safe. In supplementary PSHE guidance for subject survey visits, pupils awareness of the dangers of substance misuse is included in the criteria for inspectors when grading the quality of PSHE delivery.

Discipline

Any response to drug-related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take schools should follow their own disciplinary procedures.

Exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug incident and permanent exclusion should only be used in serious cases. More detail on excluding pupils can be found in the DfE Exclusion Guidance.

Drug use can be a symptom of other problems and schools should be ready to involve or refer pupils to other services when needed. It is important that schools are aware of the relevant youth and family support services available in their local area.

INTRODUCTION

This policy is aimed at all staff, pupils, parents/carers and agencies working with the school. The policy links with existing PSHE, Citizenship, Drugs Management and School Discipline policies. Annex A lists useful national and local organisations and contacts.

Red Rose School recognises that drug misuse in our society is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Young people are influenced by their parents, their peers, youth culture and the media and schools alone cannot solve the problem of drug misuse in society. An effective programme of drug education in school will, however, help to ensure that young people are aware of the risks of drug taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist. Thus, we recognise our responsibility to treat drug misuse as an educational issue and to work, as appropriate, in partnership with the police, health services and parents to inform and protect the pupils of the School.

Whilst it is important to maintain a clear distinction between legal and illegal drugs, our policy is to place drugs education firmly in the context of an overall health education programme. Our aim is to enable students to make informed decisions highlighting the functions and potential dangers that all forms of drug use have in individual lives and society as a whole.

DEFINITION

A drug is any substance that affects the way in which the body functions, physically, emotionally, or mentally. It includes legal substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, and solvents, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, GHB, Ketamine and alkyl nitrites (poppers).

VALUES AND AIMS

Set in the broader context of personal, social, and health education, our drugs education reflects whole-school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all member of the school community.

We aim to enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Drugs education should:

- ✓ Provide accurate information
- ✓ Correct misunderstandings
- ✓ Build on knowledge and understanding
- ✓ Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users
- ✓ Develop pupils' understanding of rules and laws
- ✓ Develop pupils' interpersonal skills
- ✓ Develop pupils' self-awareness and self-esteem
- ✓ Explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs
- ✓ Be relevant to the needs of pupils and the school community.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of our students with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation.

DRUGS EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM

It is through PSHE that the major degree of drug education is delivered. This programme offers the opportunity to reinforce the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and give students the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills to make informed and responsible choices now and later in life without glamorising the subject by singling it out for separate treatment.

The programme is consistent with the School's policy on dealing with drug related incidents.

The following areas are considered through the curriculum:

At Key Stage 3 the abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs are investigated via teacher-led sessions, participative methods and the use of outside speakers. There is a particular focus on tobacco in year 7, alcohol in year 8 and cannabis in year 9. However, these subjects are not viewed in isolation but incorporated into the PSHE framework and aims to enable students to:

- ✓ recognise personal responsibility for decisions about substance use
- ✓ understand the basic facts about substances including their effects and relevant legislation
- ✓ be aware of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance use
- ✓ develop appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance use occurs
- ✓ investigate peer group pressure and positive ways of saying "no"

At Key Stage 4 there is more emphasis on researching factual information about the affects of drugs, physiologically and psychologically, within a social framework. There is a particular focus on Class A drugs in years 10 and 11. A variety of interactive and participatory approaches are used. This aims to enable students to:

- ✓ understand that Britain is a drug-using society and recognise the different patterns of use and their effects, such as the transmission of HIV infection through shared needles and the detrimental effects on the foetus of all types of drug use
- ✓ recognise that individuals are responsible for choices they make about drug use
- ✓ understand how to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- ✓ analyse 'safe' levels of intake of some substances e.g. limited use of alcohol
- ✓ discuss the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs
- ✓ identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Our teaching must be responsive to changing trends in drug misuse and offer a clear and consistent message. It does not set out to shock or frighten students but rather to inform them and allow students to make informed choices. Students are given clear information about:

- ✓ the law on drug misuse via our police liaison officer
- ✓ the implications for individuals, families, and society
- ✓ School rules in relation to the misuse of drugs

We seek to equip our students with skills to help them resist the pressure to experiment with drugs through detailed discussion of likely scenarios of peer pressure and through role-play exercises. We seek to generate, through informed discussion, positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles in our students, which will be strong enough to influence their behaviour.

The School actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, the LEA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEWING DRUGS EDUCATION

Assessment in PSHE lessons seeks to judge achievement in drugs education in wider terms than purely gains in factual knowledge. Methods include:

- ✓ Seeking feedback from pupils at the end of lessons on their progress and achievements, both individually and as a group
- ✓ Teacher assessment of activities conducted and work completed
- ✓ Class discussion, aimed at helping pupils to identify what they should do next
- ✓ Inviting pupils and teachers to reflect on the overall programme.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We value the support and encouragement of parents in our efforts at preventing drug misuse. Parents are welcome to receive a copy of this policy document and are encouraged to discuss with staff at the School any concerns they may have about drug related issues.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the School community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is clear that they work within child protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. Only in exceptional circumstances would sensitive information be passed on against a pupils' wishes but teachers may have a moral and professional duty to do so, for example, in relation to cooperating with a police investigation and referring to external services.

Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.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 Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/ 14

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

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide 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 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

Lancashire Services:

Young people's substance misuse services and support in Lancashire

Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (LDAAT)

Teacher Adviser for Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education

The School and Community Partnerships Team includes a Teacher Adviser for drug, alcohol and tobacco education to facilitate schools countywide in the development of the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education policies.

Contact: Nicki Turner 01257 226900

Nicola.Turner@lancashire.gov.uk

Young Peoples Alcohol and Tobacco Team

The Alcohol and Tobacco Team is a strategic early intervention and prevention service, based in trading standards which takes a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to tackling young people's alcohol and tobacco misuse and its impact on young people and communities throughout Lancashire.

Contacts: Samantha Beetham 01772 530586

Samantha.Beetham@lancashire.gov.uk; Catherine Westwell 01772 532228

Catherine.Westwell@lancashire.gov.uk

County Substance Awareness Training Co-ordinator

The County Substance Awareness Training Co-ordinator role is to increase the capacity and competency of staff working with young people by delivering training programmes enabling them to respond effectively to young people's substance use and misuse. Hosted by the Young Peoples Service within Lancashire County Council this post contributes towards the development of assessment and referral pathways for young people.

Contact: Lisa Richardson 01772 531647 Lisa.Richardson@lancashire.gov.uk

Street Safe Lancashire

"Street Safe – Lancashire" (formerly the Young Runaways Project) is part of The Children's Society Lancashire Children's Rights Service (LCRS). It works in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council to support children and young people who are missing from care or home and are victims of or vulnerable to sexual exploitation

Contact: Pauline Geraghty 01772 256900

Pauline.Geraghty@childrenssociety.org.uk

Young People Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Services

LDAAT commission treatment services for children and young people who have significant issues with substance misuse and who need individual help to overcome the problem. These services work with young people up to the age of 21 years and offer early intervention and targeted support to vulnerable groups to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse.

Contacts:

Early Break 01282 604022

<http://www.earlybreak.co.uk>

Young Addiction Central 01772 255307

http://www.addaction.org.uk/?page_id=66

Young Addiction North 01524 428310 •

http://www.addaction.org.uk/?page_id=66