



IMPACT PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

DRUGS POLICY

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: July 2022

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED: September 2023

Introduction

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

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. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support. This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the PSHE, medicines, health and safety, smoking and SEN policies.

Organisation

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits / trips / residential 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 illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and any other substances covered by the 1971 misuse of drugs act; psychoactive substances act 2016, or that is subject to a temporary class drug order (TCDO).

The school prohibits all substances having psychoactive effects on the brain: depressants, stimulants, cannabinoids, and hallucinogens. 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.

Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Medication prescribed by a doctor is permissible on site and will be locked in a lockable container.

The school is aware of and follows the DfES /LA guidelines on the administration of medicines in schools. (Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings) DfES 2005

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.

Controlled drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs IMPACT will act upon the following guidance:

- “ 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.
- “ 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 (CPOMS record).

At IMPACT we aim to provide our pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make informed choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle and helps them to develop to their full potential.

Teaching of drug education

Drugs education is delivered in a clear, concise and consistent manner through the PSHE curriculum

At Key Stage 3

11-14-year-old pupils should be taught

- Legal drugs . positives and negatives including the dangers of smoking and alcohol
- Illegal drugs . the dangers to health and potential impact on communities
- Developing theme of legal and illegal drugs, their effects, associated health risks and the law related to drugs
- Harmful effects and legal status of drugs
- Where you hear about drugs
- Who tells you about drugs
- Dangers of drugs inc Health effects
- Impact of alcohol and drugs on healthy living
- How to address problems of alcohol and drug abuse

At Key Stage 4

as above, more detail in the PSHE curriculum.

The above elements represent the statutory minimum that schools must deliver to all pupils and young people.

Substance Misuse Protocol

Suspected drugs-related incident has occurred

Are young people involved?

NO

YES

SEIZE & HOLD IN A SAFE PLACE
HAND TO MERSEYSIDE POLICE AS SOON AS

Is the young person/people unconscious?

YES

NO

Is the young person/people intoxicated or high?

NO

- Stay Calm
- Place casualty in recovery position, loosen clothing
- Dial 999
- Collect any evidence of what has been taken eg. Pills, syringes, seek advice regarding vomited material