Sperrinview Special School

Drugs Education Policy

**Rationale**

Schools have a key role to play in ensuring that young people understand the risks involved in drug use and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to avoid them. As a school we have a statutory obligation to provide drugs education as part of our curriculum. As a special school our approach to pupil education must be relevant to the needs and abilities of our pupils.

**Ethos**

In Sperrinview we discourage drug misuse, encourage positive attitudes and self-esteem, and promote healthy lifestyles. Our Vision, Enable, Encourage and Empower compels us to provide our pupils with the information they need to keep safe, and to help them develop the skills and personal confidence to protect themselves. It involves the whole school community – pupils, staff, parents and governors to be informed and empowered to promote a safe and secure environment.

**Definitions**:

Drug: tobacco and tobacco-related products, electronic cigarettes, non-prescription medications, illegal drugs, prescribed medications

Substance: alcohol, volatile substances

Drug use: refers to taking a drug; there is no value judgement, although all drug use has an element of risk.

Drug misuse: refers to legal, illegal or illicit drug-taking or alcohol consumption, which leads to a person experiencing social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. Drug misuse is therefore taking drugs, including prescribed drugs and NPS, that cause harm to the individual, their significant others or the wider community.

**Aim**:

To protect young people from the harm associated with the use and misuse of substances.

**Objectives**:

* Develop a consistent approach to drug-related issues in line with the school’s pastoral care provision and working alongside existing Child Protection and Safeguarding arrangements
* Develop, implement and review a drugs education programme as part of the provision of PDMU and PD within the curriculum
* Develop procedures and protocols that address drug-related issues across all areas of school life that are clearly communicated to staff and parents
* Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy, reviewing regularly and learning from experience.

**Roles, Responsibilities and Legal Duties**

**Board of Governors**

* This policy has been written in consultation with the Board of Governors
* The Policy was ratified by Governors on \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_
* A sub-committee of the BoG will monitor, review and evaluate the policy.

**Principal**

* The Principal, Miss Jordan, has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy

**Designated Teacher for Drugs**

* The Vice Principal, Ms Walker is the Designated Teacher for Drugs. In her absence the Deputy is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**All Staff**

* Staff have a Duty of Care to the pupils in our school.

**Pupils, Parents and Carers**

**Drugs Education in the Curriculum**

In Junior School, healthy choices are promoted through the PDMU programme. In Middle and Senior School the Personal Development programme provides a discreet taught element of drugs education.

**Procedures for managing suspected drug-related incidents**

There are a variety of situations that may occur in school. The following are suggestions, but not exhaustive:

1. Evidence of drugs use on the school premises

Risk – potential harm to pupils from drugs or drug-taking paraphernalia

1. Pupil gains access to drugs and ingests a substance

Risk – Medical Emergency

Ref – Appendix 9 Emergency Procedures

1. Pupil brings drugs/substances into school

Risk – potential harm to pupil or others, disciplinary, criminal offence

1. Parent appears under the influence of alcohol/drugs

Risk – potential harm to pupil, child protection, criminal offence

1. Staff member reports to work under the influence of alcohol

Risk – potential harm to pupils or self, disciplinary

Ref: Staff Code of Conduct

Ref: Advice to staff on handling drug-related incidents - Appendix 4

**Searching Pupils**

Pupils and their belongings should only be searched with the pupil’s consent. The pupil can be asked to turn out their pockets and bag if there is suspicion of possession of items or substances related to drugs and substances.

**Confiscation**

The Principal, with the Designated Teacher will confiscate any substances or items related to drugs or drug-taking. This includes matches, e-cigarettes, tobacco products, patches or prescription or non-prescription medication that the pupil does not have EXPRESS PERMISSION to be holding (eg Epilepsy Care Plans and medications, diabetes-related medications).

Ref: Guidelines for Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs

**Handling, storing and disposing of suspected substances**

Confiscated substances will be stored in a locked drawer in the Principal’s Office.

If the substance is easily identifiable, such as cigarettes, a parent must come to see the Principal before the items will be released. If the substance is unknown, it will be handled using gloves and reported to PSNI. In some circumstances this may involve reporting to EA and Social Services.

Ref: List of Controlled Substances can be found in Appendix 1

**Confidentiality**

* School staff should explain to pupils that they cannot guarantee confidentiality and that the incident needs to be passed on.
* School will pass on any information about suspected criminal activity associated with drugs to the Designated Teacher, PSNI and EA.

**Discipline and Pastoral Care**

* Any drugs-related incidents will be responded to in alignment with the Positive Behaviour Management Policy and Pastoral Care Policy
* The individual circumstances of the case will be considered when making an appropriate response

**Counselling and Support**

* Schools Counselling Service (ICSS) is an independent, confidential, school-based professional counselling service funded by DE. The service is available to our post-primary pupils and can be a self-referral, parent referral or staff referral.
* Social Services can offer support and advice to parents on acceptance of the case.
* A range of other referral pathways can be explored.

Ref – Appendix 8

**Staff and Drugs**

**Staff**

Employers must protect the health, safety and welfare of employees at work (Health and Safety at Work Order NI 1978)

Employees have a legal responsibility to protect their own health and safety and that of their colleagues

Information for staff can be found in Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Policy (EA TNC 2005/5)

Drugs Misuse at Work www. Hseni.gov.uk

Don’t’ Mix it: A Guide for Employers on Alcohol at Work [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

Smoking Policy for Schools (TNC 2000/3) deni.gov.uk

**Training**

* All teaching and non-teaching staff have access to all school policies through c2k
* Staff Induction will draw attention to procedures and Staff Handbooks will include information on the Drugs Policy
* Training in responding to a suspected drug-related incident will be included in the annual Child Protection update
* Middle and Senior School staff will deliver the PD programme following training with the Designated Teacher and PD Subject Leader
* Appropriate external training will be provided by PSNI
* The Board of Governors will be presented with the policy and procedures by the Designated Teacher. Appropriate external training will be sourced.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 Main Types of Controlled Substances by Class

Appendix 3 Checklist of Roles and Responsibilities When Managing an Incident

Appendix 4 Handling Drugs-Related Incidents

4.1 Finding a suspected substance or drug-related paraphernalia on or close to the school premises

4.2 Pupil suspected of having taken drugs/alcohol on school premises

4.3 Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance

4.4 Pupil in possession of alcohol or unauthorised prescribed medication on the school premises

4.5 A parent or carer arrives at school to collect a child and appears to be under the influence of alcohol or another substance

Appendix 5 Drugs Incident Report Form

Appendix 6 Strengthening the Partnership between School and the Wider Community

Appendix 7 Recognising Signs of Substance Use

Appendix 8 Referral Pathway for Specified School Incidents

Appendix 9 Emergency Procedures

Appendix 10 Useful Contacts in NI

Appendix 1

**Types of drugs**

The maximum penalties for drug possession, supply (selling, dealing or sharing) and production depend on what type or ‘class’ the drug is.

| **Class** | **Drug** | **Possession** | **Supply and production** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth) | Up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both | Up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both |
| B | Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, ketamine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (for example mephedrone, methoxetamine) | Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both | Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both |
| C | Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), piperazines (BZP), khat | Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both (except anabolic steroids - it’s not an offence to possess them for personal use) | Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both |
| Temporary class drugs\* | Some methylphenidate substances (ethylphenidate, 3,4-dichloromethylphenidate (3,4-DCMP), methylnaphthidate (HDMP-28), isopropylphenidate (IPP or IPPD), 4-methylmethylphenidate, ethylnaphthidate, propylphenidate) and their simple derivatives | None, but police can take away a suspected temporary class drug | Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both |

[www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing](http://www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing)

Appendix 3

**Checklist of Roles and Responsibilities When Managing an Incident**

Individual staff members should:

• assess the situation and decide the action;

• make the situation safe for all pupils and other members of staff, secure first aid and send for additional staff support, if necessary;

• carefully gather up any drugs and/or associated paraphernalia or evidence and pass all information or evidence to the designated teacher for drugs; and

• write a brief factual report of the incident and forward it to the designated teacher for drugs.

The designated teacher for drugs should:

• respond to first aider's advice or recommendations;

• inform parents or carers immediately, in the case of an emergency;

• take possession of any substance(s) and associated paraphernalia found;

• inform the principal;

• take initial responsibility for pupil(s) involved in the suspected incident; and

• complete a Drugs Incident Report Form (see Appendix 5) and forward it to the principal.

The principal should:

• determine the circumstances surrounding the incident;

• ensure that the following people are informed:

– parents or carers;

– designated officer in the local PSNI area;

– Board of Governors; and

– designated officer in Education Authority or CCMS.

• consult and agree pastoral and disciplinary responses, including counselling services or support;

• forward a copy of the Incident Report Form to the chairperson of the Board of Governors and the designated officer in the Education Authority or CCMS, if appropriate; and

• review procedures and amend, if necessary.

Appendix 4

Handling Drug-Related Incidents

4.1 Finding a suspected substance or drug-related paraphernalia on or close to the school premises

<https://ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/drugs-education-revised-guidance>

Its in one of the PDFs