



Moorside High School

Anti-Drugs Policy

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Date Reviewed:September 2017
Date of Next Review:September 2018.....
Reviewed by:Inclusion Committee

INTRODUCTION

Moorside High School supports the view that:

“Drugs misuse can result in extremely serious problems for individuals, families and communities. All schools have an important role in enabling children and young people to make responsible and healthy decisions”.

The school therefore believes that Drugs Education is essential if students are to be given an adequate preparation for life and it also believes that it is important for staff, pupils and parents to have clear guidelines in the event of any incident of drug issue on school premises.

“Drugs misuse” is defined as the non-medical use of drugs that are only intended for use in medical treatment, and the use of drugs that have no accepted medical purpose. Such drugs are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and include opiates such as heroin, stimulants such as cocaine, amphetamines and Ecstasy, tranquillisers, hallucinogens such as LSD and cannabis. It should be noted that this act does not cover the use of solvents or other volatile substances.

‘In 1987, The Royal College of Psychiatrists adopted the term drug misuse as “any taking of a drug which harms or threatens to harm the physical or mental health or social well-being of an individual, of other individuals, or of society at large, or which is illegal”. In 1982, The Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) used the term, “problem drug taker”, defined as “any person who experiences social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication and/or regular excessive consumption and/ or are dependent as a consequence of its own use of drugs or other chemical substances”. (HAS Report, 1996, paragraphs 29 – 30)

APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

The policy applies to all persons within the boundaries of the Moorside High School site.

The policy applies to students whilst travelling to and from school, during school related evening activities, on educational visits, and on work experience.



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Our school's aims for our drugs education programme are as follows:

- To improve children and young people's knowledge of drugs and their effects on the human body
- To raise children's and young people's awareness of the consequences of drug use and misuse to the individual, the family, peers, local communities and society
- To increase awareness of ways of minimising the risks and unwanted consequences of drug use
- To enable children and young people to make (or plan to make) informed and sensible decisions about their drug use
- To enable children and young people to develop a range of skills and techniques appropriate for handling situations related to drugs and drug use
- To promote children's and young people's understanding of the reasons why drugs are used and misused
- To help children and young people to explore and develop their own attitudes to drug use
- To enable children and young people to identify sources of information and appropriate personal support and be able to make use of these sources if they require them

DRUGS PREVENTION POLICY

The aims of our drug prevention activities are:

- To make the school a health promoting environment
- To provide drug education for parents, carers and the community
- To make available information about drugs and the drug use to children and young people
- To ensure that the school's premises are a safe environment with respect to drugs
- To have in place a policy on drug education (or at least to have considered the educational aspects of the school's work on drugs)
- To involve the Police and other agencies where possible to support initiatives in school
- To be prepared to talk to young people about any drug-related problems and offer them appropriate advice
- To help young people to develop decision-making skills

STAFF WITH KEY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DRUGS

The designated person with overall responsibility for all drugs issues within school (the Drugs Co-ordinator) is Mrs G Grant. The drugs Co-ordinator is responsible for overseeing the planning and co-ordination of drugs education, the management of drugs incidents and liaison with the police on drug related matters.



ORGANISATION

Drugs education plays a central part in our PSHE programme. Teachers deliver a range of units devised by drugs agencies, Health authorities and other supporting professionals. We work closely with the police on local initiatives and support local/national programmes in the education of young people and their families.

Drugs education also comes into Science lessons, which all pupils receive:

- Key Stage 3 Science – The abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs and their effects on health, how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.
- Key Stage 4 Science – The effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on body functions.

The opportunity to discuss drug related issues also occurs in English, RE, geography and PE.

INSET

Staff teaching this subject should have the appropriate INSET and all staff should have Drugs Awareness training. This will be updated as required.

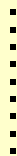
USE OF OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

A number of outside speakers are used in the Drugs Education programme. These include specific teaching staff in the Health PSHE team, health education professionals, drugs misuse support group members and the police. Care is taken in the selection of outside speakers to ensure that their presentations are integrated into the overall approach of the school and to ensure that the drugs issue is not glamorised in any way. Visiting speakers are always briefed about the school's expectations.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Teachers and form tutors are aware of the school's policy for Special Educational Needs and of their responsibilities under the Code of Practice. Information about special arrangements and individual education plans are circulated to Heads of Department by the SEN co-ordinator and are thus available to all teaching staff.

The emphasis in this area on oral work, discussion and role-play may be helpful for these pupils, but further development work needs to be done on designing appropriate written materials and in challenging the more able. The school is aware that those with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviour are and are not acceptable and desirable, and they may need more support to resist peer pressure and develop positive self esteem.



PARENTAL DEVELOPMENT

The development of parental awareness and support is a key element of the Drugs Education programme.

A Drugs Awareness training session for parents should be organised by the Drugs co-ordinator, working with the Moorside Community Voice Forum (Ex. PTFA). Detailed information about the Drugs Education programme is available to parents upon request. This training should include identification of warning signs.

Information on drugs testing will be made available to parents and drugs testing kits may be obtained through school.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Drugs Education programme is monitored and evaluated in the PSHE Review as part of the process leading to the schools development plan and approved by the Governing body.

THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

(This section relates specifically to the misuse of drugs controlled under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act)

SIGNS OF DRUGS MISUSE

Teachers and non-teaching staff should be informed about the warning signs which may indicate that a student is misusing drugs, and need to be aware of them in their dealings with students.

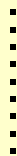
In their daily rounds, caretakers should routinely check for any signs of drug misuse.

DEALING WITH AN INCIDENT OF DRUG OVERDOSE

A suspected drug overdose (including acute intoxication) should be treated in the same way as any medical emergency. A trained first aider should be summoned if possible, and the emergency services alerted as soon as possible. The Drugs Co-ordinator and Headteacher must be notified and every attempt should be made to contact the student's parents.

RESPONDING TO AN INCIDENT OF DRUG USE OR SUPPLYING DRUGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

A teacher who suspects or is informed of drug misuse in school must inform the Drugs Co-ordinator or a member of the Senior Management Team/Head of Key Stage immediately. The sensitive nature of an investigation means that senior staff must undertake it.



The DRE circular 4/95 Drug Prevention and Schools states that:

“Headteachers must retain the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking account of factors such as the age of the pupil concerned, whether the incident involved one pupil or a group of pupils and whether there is evidence of particular peer group pressure. The fact that certain behaviour could constitute a violation of the criminal law should not, in itself, be taken as automatically leading to the exclusion of a pupil.”

Students can be asked to empty their pockets but there must be two members of staff present and any suspect item put into a container and labelled. An incident sheet must be completed. A member of staff must not physically search students.

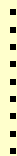
The school views *drug taking* on school premises as a very serious offence. Where there is clear evidence of such an incident taking place, the Headteacher will normally exclude the student concerned. However, the Headteacher will consider each case on its merits and the previous behaviour may be taken into account in deciding whether such an exclusion is a permanent one. The pastoral care and support of the individual student concerned will need to be balanced against the importance of clearly signalling the school’s disapproval of drug misuse, and of protecting other students in the school. If a student is excluded on a temporary basis, the school will work with parents and other agencies to ensure support and counselling for the student concerned. In all cases where drug misuse is suspected and investigated, parents *will be* informed.

The *supplying of drugs* on the school premises is considered to be an extremely serious offence, which endangers both those directly involved and other students in the school. The Headteacher will consider each case on its merits but will normally seek permanent exclusion of a student where there is clear evidence of involvement in the supplying of drugs to other students. The student and his/her parents will have the usual rights of appeal and representation under the school’s published exclusion policy. The school will want to ensure that the excluded student has access to professional support and advice from health and social services. The school takes note of the advice in DRE Circular 4/95 that:

“Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, the Secretary of State would expect the police to be informed when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises”

And that:

“The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession. They should hand the substance to the police who will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug; school staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance”



Also note that:

If the school knows that someone is sharing drugs with a friend, or selling any illegal drugs on premises for which it is responsible and it does nothing to stop it, then it is committing an offence by allowing its premises to be used for supplying drugs.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where a student discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make clear to the student that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse. A teacher might point to sources of confidential information and advice, and to treatment and rehabilitation services to help those who are using illegal drugs to stop. However, if there is clear evidence that the drug misuse has been taking place on school premises, the teacher also has a duty to the school to act in line with the school's drug policy on the subject, and refer the matter to the Drugs Co-ordinator, SMT or Headteacher immediately.

LIAISON WITH THE POLICE AND OTHER AGENCIES

The school has good links with the police and other agencies and would want to work closely with all relevant bodies to ensure that the school's policy on Drug Misuse is effective. The Drugs Co-ordinator will seek to co-operate actively with the Police, and all local initiatives to defer students from getting involved with drugs.

The police will be informed of any substantiated evidence of the use or possession of drugs associated with the school; the Drugs Co-ordinator will liaise with the police regarding the safe disposal of confiscated illegal substances. Substances will be safely locked in a school safe until a method of disposal is agreed.