

# OUSEDALE SCHOOL

## DRUGS & MEDICINES POLICY

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 All young people at Ousedale School need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. The school has a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education and guidance about the risks and effects of drugs.
- 1.2 The purpose of Drugs Education is to develop young people's confidence and skills so that they are able to manage situations involving drugs. The school will ensure that education about drugs takes place in a safe and supportive learning environment. We will also ensure that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.
- 1.3 The use of illegal drugs is detrimental to the development and education of our students and is likely to undermine their health, safety, independence, opportunities and respect for the law. Such illegal use of drugs will also undermine the integrity of the school community by exposing other students to temptation and to the risk of criminal proceedings.
- 1.4 The Drugs Education Programme will enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects. It will challenge attitudes and help students to develop skills such as being assertive and being a positive example amongst their peers.
- 1.5 The school is aware that some students are more vulnerable to drug misuse and that we can help to reduce the impact of risk factors and strengthen protective factors by promoting:
  - supportive and safe relationships;
  - regular school attendance;
  - ability to cope with the social and academic demands of school life;
  - strong and supportive social networks;
  - good social skills;
  - good knowledge of the effects and risks associated with drugs;
  - realistic self awareness and self esteem;
  - good knowledge of general health and how to ensure good mental health;
  - good knowledge of how to access help and information;
  - counselling and other support mechanisms;
  - participation in extra curricular activities;
  - working partnerships with parents/carers.

### 2.0 Aims

- 2.1 The aims of our Drugs Policy are to:

- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use Ousedale School;
- enable staff to manage effectively drugs related incidents on school premises;
- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- make clear the legal responsibilities and requirements of Ousedale School;
- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school. Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drugs education programme;
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs;
- ensure the drugs education programme meets statutory requirements.

### **3.0 Definitions and Terminology**

3.1 The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated and used throughout this document refer to drugs:

- illegal (those controlled by the misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, and vaporised electronic cigarettes
- over-the-counter prescription medicines.

### **4.0 The management of substance abuse**

4.1 In respect of substance abuse teachers' responsibilities lie within two main areas:

- paramount duty of care for the education, safety and well-being of students entrusted to the school;
- observance of, and compliance with, laws relating to controlled substances, drugs, alcohol etc.

4.2 Where substances open to abuse (e.g. solvents, glues) are legally held within the school, such substances will be strictly controlled and stored, and the use of them supervised. (See Health and Safety Policy).

4.3 Where incidents of abuse do occur, or there is reasonable suspicion of such incidents, the school will act promptly.

4.4 The parents will be informed as soon as possible, by a Pastoral and Academic Leader (PAL), Deputy Head or the Headteacher, if the school has evidence of their child's involvement, or probable involvement with alcohol, drugs or solvent abuse.

4.5 Any information concerning individual students in relation to abuse will be treated with the utmost circumspection, and not be disclosed to anyone except for appropriate staff without the parental consent.

4.6 Students will be made aware through form tutors and PALs that the school does not accept the misuse of substances, and of the sanctions likely to be imposed on offenders.

## 4.7 Sanctions

These can apply to instances which occur in school, between home and school, on work experience and school visits.

### 4.7.1 Tobacco:

- students found in possession of tobacco products (including vaporised electronic cigarettes and any associated paraphernalia) will have them confiscated, along with any matches/lighters. Parents of students caught smoking on site will be informed by letter for the first and second time. On the third occasion, repeat offenders will be spoken to by Matron regarding the health consequences of smoking, and parents may be invited in to school to discuss the continued breach of school rules. Exclusion may be considered for students who continue to smoke on the school premises.

### 4.7.2 Alcohol:

- students found drunk/drinking

The first duty of the school is to have regard to the safety of the student by rendering or obtaining appropriate assistance/treatment. If there is disruption caused to the good order of the school, parents will be contacted to collect the student. All cases of drunkenness will be reported to the parent and the disciplinary action following from the incident will be confirmed to them which may include an exclusion.

- students found in possession of alcohol

The alcohol will be confiscated. All such incidents will be reported to the parent and the disciplinary action, which may include an exclusion following from the incident will be confirmed to them.

For repeat offenders information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

### 4.7.3 Solvents:

- students found abusing solvents

The first duty of the school will be to have regard for the safety of the student by rendering or obtaining appropriate assistance/treatment. All solvents/apparatus will be confiscated and a sample of the solvent should go to the hospital (if the student is hospitalised). The parent/guardian will be informed immediately and any disciplinary action, which may include an exclusion following from the incident will be confirmed to them.

In cases where the school has reasonable evidence for believing a student has involvement in solvent abuse outside school the parents will be informed of the possible danger to their child.

Information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

#### 4.7.4 Controlled drugs (**NB this relates to abuse – not to those controlled drugs prescribed by a medical practitioner, see Matron’s role description**):

- students suspected of possession of a (non-medically prescribed) controlled drug

Where there are strong grounds for suspicion a Deputy Head or the Headteacher, usually accompanied by another adult, will ask to search the student. The school will involve a PCSO/Police Officer where necessary.

- students found in possession of, or using controlled drugs in school

The drugs will be immediately confiscated and handed over to a police officer as soon as possible and officially reported.

The parents or guardian will be contacted as soon as possible.

If this is a first offence the student will be excluded from school and the situation reviewed; repeat offenders may be permanently excluded from school. This will be separate to any action taken by the police. The LA and the Chair of Governors will be informed. Copies of all relevant documentation will be forwarded to the appropriate parties.

Information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

- students found supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (pushing)

Police will be called immediately, parents contacted as soon as possible and student(s) excluded in the interests of and under the duty of care towards non-involved students. The likely outcome for the student(s), separate to any action taken by the police, will be permanent exclusion.

NB. The level of sanctions applied in the above cases will relate to the individual incident, be consistent with other breaches of discipline, and take account of the student’s record in school. All partners will wish to protect the good name of the school.

## 4.8 Criteria for Police involvement

### 4.8.1 Informing the Police:

- all incidents involving the misuse of controlled drugs will be reported to the Police;
- where any substance is misused by an individual, and a third party (student or member of the community) has in all likelihood supplied the substance illegally, such information will be passed to 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.

### 4.8.2 Searches:

- students who refuse to allow senior members of staff to search their belongings where there are grounds for suspicion of substance misuse (controlled drugs, alcohol, solvents, tobacco), will be subject to disciplinary measures;

- additionally, where searches relate specifically to alcohol, solvents or controlled drugs, and students refuse to cooperate with searches by senior staff, the student will be detained and the Police asked to attend the school to perform a search.
- Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school will 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. An e-mail will be sent to the relevant PAL of the student detailing all of the information above and this will be placed in the student's file. There is no legal requirement to do this.

#### **4.9 General power to confiscate**

A 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 Student'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. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

#### **5.0 Legal drugs**

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the school may - inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco (including vaporised electronic cigarettes and any associated paraphernalia), alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area.

#### **5.1 Controlled drugs**

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs, the school will follow national guidance by:

- ensuring that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- sealing 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 student 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 student;

- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

## **5.2 Students whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs**

The school will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue, the school will follow the procedures set out in its drug policy. This will include protocols for assessing the student's welfare and support needs and when and how to involve other sources of support for the child such as Children's Services, services commissioned by Milton Keynes Council and, where appropriate, the family.

## **6.0 Drugs Education**

In a combination of PSHE and subject-based lessons the school will provide a coherent programme of drugs education which will contribute to the preventative measures taken by the Government and other bodies.

- 6.1** The PSHE Coordinator is responsible for putting together and evaluating a programme of drugs education covering Years 7 – 11. Staff will also be trained to deliver the programme.
- 6.2** The PSHE Coordinator will ensure he/she is aware of the latest guidelines on drugs classification and education, liaising with outside agencies as appropriate.
- 6.3** The Head of Sixth Form is responsible for producing material which is consistent with the policy and incorporating it into the tutorial programme as appropriate.
- 6.4** The Deputy Head Curriculum will oversee the development of the drugs education programme for Years 7 – 11.

### **6.5 Aims:**

- deliver a comprehensive and coherent programme within a positive and secure environment;
- ensure that whilst being informative no aspect of drug use/misuse should appear promotional either intentionally or unintentionally;
- build on and develop an anti-drug culture within our student body;
- continually review the programme to ensure its content and approach is current and relevant;
- develop students' understanding of the wider impact of drug use/misuse beyond the user;
- promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- increase awareness of the short and long term risks, the effects of drugs and how they relate to achieving a healthy lifestyle;
- develop relevant skills across the curriculum including decision making and effective communication;
- empower students to take appropriate action in encounters with drugs, suppliers and users;

- clarify misconceptions on drug use through education, resources and support;
- increase students' ability to assess and manage risk;
- provide opportunities for students to explore risk in appropriate and positive ways across the curriculum;
- develop fact-finding and research skills so students are able to independently track down information, help and advice;
- strengthen emotional skills including self-esteem, self awareness, resisting pressures and coping strategies;
- explore attitudes to drugs including social influences, stereotypes and the media;
- clarify the laws and rules relating to drugs and engage with classifications and their relevance;
- incorporate the programme into a whole school approach addressed by representatives of all areas of the school and its community.

## **Objectives**

### **6.5.1 Increasing knowledge, changing attitudes and enhancing skills:**

- provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse;
- provide opportunities for students to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs and to help reduce school problems associated with drug misuse.

### **6.5.2 Behaviour:**

- minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse;
- delay the age of first use for those who do experiment at any time;
- minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse;
- persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop;
- enable any students who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help.

### **6.5.3 Citizenship:**

- increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs.
- enhance young people's capacity to contribute to school policies on drug misuse;
- enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle;
- enhance later parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when students reach adulthood.

## **6.6 Delivery**

### **6.6.1** Drugs education will be delivered across the curriculum in PSHE and Science.

### **6.6.2** PSHE Programme:

PSHE programme is delivered across all year groups.

Aims of the programme are to:

- engage with a number of drug related issues;
- investigate healthy living and deal with how drugs counteract this idea;
- look in detail at particular substances including Cannabis with a focus on attitudes towards drugs;
- understand what social pressures can be attached to drugs and look at coping strategies to further their decision making abilities;
- understand the law regarding volatile substances and psychoactive substances (formerly known as “legal highs”);
- develop good knowledge of UK drug law and in particular how classification relates to it. Students will also discuss the approach of drug taking by the Police;
- provide opportunities to develop understanding of drugs via independent research;
- investigate links between drugs and other school related issues including truancy, exclusion and crime;
- investigate drug misuse in relation to sexual relationships.

### **6.6.3 SCIENCE Programme**

- investigate the effects of diet, smoking and exercise on cardiovascular disease;
- develop understanding of the effect of alcohol on the liver and brain function
- look in detail at the effect of smoking on lung disease and lung cancer;
- understand the effects of smoking and alcohol on unborn babies;
- develop good knowledge on carcinogens, including ionising radiation, as risk factors in cancer;
- explore the importance of healthy living and the effects drugs and alcohol have on the body.

## **7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- 7.1** The Learning & Curriculum Committee, on behalf of the Governing Body, will review the policy on a biennial basis.

Reviewed by Governors' Learning & Curriculum Committee - June 2016  
 To Full Governing Body - July 2016  
 Next Review - June 2018