



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

This policy governs any activity operated by or associated with Plantsbrook School whether on or off the school premises and forms part of our safeguarding procedures.

This policy document seeks to:

- clearly state the principles underlying our policy and our commitment to tackling drug misuse;
- define drug education and set out the aims and objectives of our drug education programme;
- set out the procedures for dealing with, and the disciplinary measures which will be applied, to drug related incidents;
- Define the responsibilities of staff with a specific role in this area.

Definition

Drug education should provide students with the opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse. It should also ensure that they are equipped with the attitudes and skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs.

Aims and objectives

Aim: The aim of drug education is to enable students to make healthy informed choices.

Drug Education through the whole school PSHE Programme

- Drug education in Plantsbrook is a part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme and features in all years, from Year 7 to the Sixth Form. It is organised by Miss Dudley, Assistant Headteacher and reviewed annually.
- It is monitored continually and evaluated annually by Miss Dudley, Assistant Headteacher. Senior staff may also be involved in monitoring as part of classroom observation. Governors will also be involved in the evaluation through discussion at the Local Governing Body.

Drug Education through the School Ethos, Curriculum and Environment.

- Plantsbrook is a 'telling' school. All students are encouraged, through teachers, tutors and assemblies, to tell an adult if they have evidence of drug misuse.
- Plantsbrook is a caring school. Students are encouraged to care for the health and welfare of their peers.
- Drug education may also occur in other curriculum areas e.g. Science, Humanities and English. It is also taught within the whole school PSHE programme, addressing topics relevant to each year group. Students are encouraged to discuss and debate topics around drug education.
- Drug education is also affected by the school environment. Staff on duty will be alert to areas where drug abuse might take place e.g. toilets and corners of the playground. They will also be alert to signs of drug misuse in individual children.

Dealing with Drug-Related Incidents

Alcohol and Solvent Misuse.

If staff suspect alcohol or solvent misuse, the student should be detained immediately and sent to their Achievement Co-ordinator, Assistant Achievement Co-ordinator or Senior Staff who will decide whether medical examination is necessary. Parents will be contacted to take the students

out of school immediately to take care of them. Parents and students will be asked to attend school the following morning to discuss the incident with the responsible staff in order to prevent a recurrence.

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A pupil who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession, supply or drug use
- Reports of drug possession, supply or drug use

Illegal Drugs

- Students caught in possession of illegal substances should be detained and taken to Senior Staff immediately.
- If the teacher is able to take possession of the illegal substance, it should be taken to the school safe to be handed to the police.
- Offenders should be isolated by Senior Staff. Senior Staff will call the police to investigate the incident with the full co-operation of staff. Police will determine appropriate action. Detailed records should be kept by staff. Any comments or responses made by the student should be recorded as accurately as possible as this may well be required by the police and used by either prosecution or defence at a later date if proceedings are instigated against the student.
- Parents should be informed as soon as there is evidence that their child is implicated, following consultation with the police.
- The police may take the child to the police station. This should be done with parents if possible.
- If pupils are questioned by Senior Staff as a result of concerns being expressed by others, parents should be informed, even where no evidence has been found. This should be handled sensitively.

Recording Drug-related incident

- Any incident that is reported under the requirements of this policy must be formally recorded.
- The report will be updated as necessary by any Senior member of staff who takes further action

Sanctions

- Offenders will be given a short-term exclusion by the Headteacher, and the incident discussed in full before the student is re-admitted. The Headteacher would want to be convinced that the incident will never happen again and that there was no evidence of dealing. The Student Welfare Officer and other relevant agencies may also be involved.
- After re-admission offenders may also be detained by Senior Staff during breaks and lunchtimes, asked to research in their own time and present a project on drug misuse and to undertake a specific appropriate drug misuse education session.
- Where the police find evidence of drug dealing within school or where there has been repeated possession of drugs in school, the Headteacher may exclude permanently.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Plantsbrook Local Governing Body.