

Drug and Drug-Related Incidents Policy

Mission statement

- *“We are an inclusive Community school, proud to be valued citizens serving the borough of Rochdale.”*
- *“We provide a captivating learning experience and foster a culture of the highest expectations for all*
- *“We ensure every individual is challenged, motivated and inspired to be the absolute best they can be in all that they do.”*

**Date signed by Chair of Governors:
December 2019**



Date to be reviewed:

December 2021

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Mission Statement

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Values

We take pride in our values that govern everything we are and everything we do. We believe in doing “our best always, everywhere”. This means that:-

- We always strive to be the best we can be
- We always challenge ourselves to do better in all that we do
- We show courage, determination and resilience especially in the face of adversity

1. Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to provide information and clear guidelines regarding the school procedures for dealing with situations that might occur;

2. Aims of policy

- We believe that as a school we have a responsibility to educate young people in matters of drug education while making it very clear that substance abuse in any form will not be tolerated.
- The first concern in managing drugs issues is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.
- We aim to create an open environment, within a supportive pastoral system, and encourage pupils to develop personal skills enabling them to counteract peer pressure.

3. Definitions

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body affects the chemical composition of the body and how it functions. It therefore includes:

- Legally controlled substances such as caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and solvents.
- Substances sold over the counter or prescribed for specific purposes such as painkillers, tranquillisers and steroids.
- Illegal substances such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines and heroin.

Illegal and unauthorised drugs are not acceptable on site. Drugs for legitimate medical conditions are covered later in the policy.

NB. These are just some examples and some drugs will fit into more than one category. A drug-related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs or drug-related paraphernalia. The school may report any drug disclosures or discoveries to parents and/or Police including any incidents taking place out of school hours.

4. Curriculum

The school aims to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding, along with skills and attitudes towards drug-related issues. It also provides a learning environment that enables pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

(SEE Curriculum policy)

5. Staff with key responsibility for drugs

Safeguarding staff will liaise with appropriate outside agencies/police to support students where necessary. Members of the SLT will manage any accusations of a drug related nature against a student or adult. All will liaise with appropriate outside agencies/police where necessary.

6. Vulnerable Groups

Research identifies that particular groups of young people may be at greater risk of developing serious drug and alcohol related problems and Oulder Hill is committed to developing a range of appropriate interventions and support for these pupils. Should young people need to be referred to an outside agency then the Child Welfare officers need to be informed who will then make the appropriate contacts.

7. Health and Safety

Please see First aid and Medical guidance policy and Health and safety policy for information about storage and supervision of drugs.

Where any individual on school premises is believed to be under the influence of any substance which is affecting their behaviour inappropriately the primary concern will be their health and safety and the health and safety of all in the vicinity. If necessary, it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, police will usually be contacted. Parents/Carers will be informed. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

At all times staff must be vigilant in their supervision of 'risk' areas. All staff should also be alert to identify any changes in pupils' behaviour patterns and refer any concerns regarding these or possible signs or symptoms of drug misuse to the relevant member of staff on the SLT.

8. Management of drugs at school and on school trips

It is extremely important that our response to any incident achieves a balance between sanctions applied and support given. Action taken will vary according to the nature of the incident and there will be a measure of flexibility applied to each situation. There must also be fairness and consistency and the following procedures as outlined should be adhered to by all staff.

- a) General concerns regarding behaviour may have many causes. These should be referred to the Form Tutor and Year Manager who will arrange to discuss concerns with the pupil and, if necessary, with the parent/carer.
- b) If there are disclosures regarding tobacco, alcohol or solvents, the teacher should investigate initially. If the disclosures prove to be founded, they should be referred to the Year Manager, then SLT. In these instances there is normally contact with parents/carers and a school sanction applied. Support via our Pastoral staff, School Health Practitioner, Early Break and Targeted Youth Service may also be offered.
- c) If there are disclosures/suspicious regarding illegal substances, these should be referred to the Year Manager who investigates, then refers to the AHT if there is evidence. Appropriate action will be taken according to the findings, based on LA guidelines. A written report will be kept detailing the incident.
- d) If evidence of the possession, use or intent to supply illegal substances on or off the school site is found this should be referred immediately to the Year Manager and SLT. Parents/Carers will be contacted and there will be some form of sanction applied. This may include exclusion and contact of parents, police and Governors in line with LA guidelines. At this point the police will be contacted.

9. Disciplinary procedures

In all instances the pupils' welfare is of prime concern and any individuals involved will be offered support. In the most serious situations exclusion (and, ultimately, a permanent exclusion) will be seriously considered. If exclusions are implemented, the school will ensure that appropriate support is in place.

If there is evidence to suggest that any member of staff is to be 'under the influence' of drugs or alcohol the Headteacher must be informed immediately and appropriate supportive action taken. It may be necessary to examine issues of competency or disciplinary procedures; however, the welfare of the member of staff and the children must be the first consideration.

If a parent/carer or visitor is considered to be 'under the influence' staff must ensure that they are not alone. If it is felt that a child cannot be released into the care of the person collecting them, the Headteacher must be informed immediately and a decision will be taken to contact appropriate outside agencies. Parents/carers will then be signposted to appropriate support agencies.

10. Medicines and Emergency procedures

We recognise individual medical needs (both long and short term) and will be inclusive of and supportive to those individuals. **(Please SEE FIRST AID and MEDICAL GUIDANCE POLICY for guidance on emergency procedures.)**

11. School visits and social events

Oulder Hill is a no-smoking site. This applies to staff, pupils, and all visitors and extends to social functions on college premises.

On school visits and residential trips, staff and pupils will be briefed in advance about procedures and responsibilities. For overseas visits this briefing will include any difference in local laws regarding drugs.

Any member of staff who may smoke, will not do so in front of pupils or in any area which pupils may frequent. On residential visits, staff will not consume alcohol or be under its influence while they have responsibility for pupils.

Where the guidelines of this policy are breached, this will be managed either as a school disciplinary matter and/or by the local police, depending on the severity of the incident.

12. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and the Board of Governors are responsible for ensuring that this policy complies with all relevant legislation and for its successful implementation, evaluation, monitoring and review. The SLT and in particular the AHT for managing drug-related incidents will support the Headteacher in all aspects of implementation, evaluation, monitoring and review and in ensuring appropriate staff training.

13. Links & Associated Resources

Please see links on website: safeguarding

For legal guidance, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

Appendix 1: Responding to incidents involving drugs

