

Testwood School Drugs Policy



Key Responsibility area:	JP
Last Review:	February 2017
Next Review:	February 2019

*Appendices follow on from policy

A) Introduction

This school acknowledges that a positive ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in so doing helps to foster positive self images which may help pupils cope better in situations involving drug use.

This school will provide a comprehensive and planned drug education curriculum. Drug Education is part of the Citizenship/ Personal Social Education programme, and aims to provide all pupils with knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs.

This school maintains strong links with the local community police through their involvement in the drug education curriculum currently with the 'Get Real' programme which helps pupils to have a greater understanding of the role of the police and about drugs and the Law. The school also seeks to maintain strong links with the county's PSHE advisory service

B) Purpose

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquillisers and pain killers and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroin, and any other drugs young people may use.

In all situations involving drugs the following principles apply:

- 1) All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- 2) The needs of the child will always come first
- 3) The pastoral system will be the first response if at all possible
- 4) Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- 5) Support agencies including the police will be involved if appropriate
- 6) Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate
- 7) Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling approach

- 8) In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. However the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which controls heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA (ecstasy), amphetamines and cannabis and other drugs as well. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply these drugs and it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately.
- 9) It is the policy of this school to contact the local community police/school involvement officer where an incident has involved illegal substances, and to hand it to the police.
- 10) The reporting procedure ensures that only a limited number of people will be involved in any incident. All incidents are reported to the Head Teacher, appropriate Progress Leader and Deputy Head teacher. If an exclusion is considered then the procedure for this is put into action by the Head teacher involving the governors.
- 11) All incidents are written down and kept in the school office as confidential items

C) Outcomes

Pupils at this school need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without fear of being judged or 'told off'. The welfare of young people will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. Pupils will always be given this information if at all possible. Teachers should follow the same guidelines as explained in the school's Child Protection Policy. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The Progress Leader and Head teacher will be informed and help sought if appropriate, in discussion with the pupil involved. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people, including the Progress Leader, Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teachers and Assistant Head teachers.

Situations which include the breaking of school rules on drugs will result in punishment. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be used, brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or during the school day. In most cases the breaking of the school rules on drugs may lead to permanent exclusion. Parents/carers and pupils will be informed throughout any investigations.

A copy of the Drugs Education policy will be made available to parents on request. Parents will be contacted if their child is caught breaking the rules on drugs. Opportunities will be made available for parents to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health related issues as appropriate.

This policy was approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed bi-annually.

Date policy agreed: 08.02.17

Date of review: February 2019

Signature of Chair of Committee

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Date: 29.03.17



Annex 1

A) Statement of the use of drugs in school

This school accepts that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day (other than those prescribed for medical purposes) is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or during the school day. Any breaking of these rules may result in punishment including permanent exclusion. These rules apply to school staff and other adults working in and for the school apart from the use of alcohol at official school social events

B) The need for a policy

This school believes that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and that experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people's lives. It is the responsibility of schools to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug prevention and help those who misuse drugs. Schools need a policy which gives a clear view on the use of drugs in school and the importance of drug education. This policy emphasises the school's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and a clear view on handling the problem of drug use in school. In developing this policy the school has considered its legal responsibility, the needs of pupils, teachers, governors, parents and the local community.

C) Managing drug-related incidents

Incidents involving drugs may take the form of emergencies, intoxication, discovery/observation, disclosure, suspicion/rumour (or discovery of drugs related materials). This policy considers responses to these situations.

D) Emergency situations

Where a person is unconscious, which may be as a result of drug use. Staff with first aid qualifications should be called and the person not left alone. The person will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called. The parents will be informed and called to the school. An assessment of the incident started including finding out whether a substance has been taken and evidence gathered. A report of the incident will be written down and given to the Head teacher, Progress Leader or Deputy Head teacher. These key staff involved will decide whether disciplinary and/or counselling action will be taken.

E) Intoxication from drug use.

The person will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and senior member of staff called. The person will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought if necessary. The parents will be informed and called to the school. A report of the incident written down and key staff involved will decide if disciplinary and/or counselling action should be taken.

F) Discovery/observation

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy. The person should be approached and the substance confiscated, if possible. A senior member of staff will be called and the person(s) involved questioned. If the substance is illegal or there is doubt about its identity drug services or local community police/schools involvement officer will be contacted. All illegal substances will be handed to the police. Parents will be informed and called to the school. A report of the incident will be written down and key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling approach will be taken.

G) Disclosure

When a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use. Teachers will be non-judgmental and caring and show concern for the pupil's welfare. Pupils will know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality if further support is to be considered such as referral to a drug service or counselling service. Information about the pupil will only be given to key people and no one else unless the pupil gives their consent. Total confidentiality is maintained at all times in drug and counselling services. The school has strong links with local drug services and a system of referral to these agencies.

H) Suspicion/rumour (or discovery of drug related materials).

Staff do not act quickly on the basis of rumours of drugs or, a belief that a pupil is using drugs, just on their behaviour alone. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the pupil(s) involved.

I) Administering medicines

In most cases parents, not teachers, will administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours, but where this is not possible, parents of children in need of medication must ensure that the school is accurately advised about the medication, its usage and administration. The decision for staff to administer medicines will be made by the Head teacher. All medicines are stored securely in the medical office with access only by senior staff and the first aider. In the case of asthma reliever inhalers, these are kept by pupils for easy and immediate access.

J) Training and support for staff

The school will ensure that staff receive training to help them provide effective drug education and support for their teaching and understanding of the issues. The PSE Coordinator has responsibility for ensuring there is drug education within the PSE curriculum and receives support from the Education Department.

The school takes advantage of the support, advice, information and training provided by the Local education Authority and other local organisations.