

THE DEANES SCHOOL



SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

Policy: Substance Misuse

**Effective from
March 2016**

Authorised

**Mr D McKeown
Headteacher:**

**Mr A Johnston
Chair of Curriculum Committee**

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The Deanes School Substance Misuse Policy

Drugs and alcohol are an emotive issue. Society as a whole is anxious about the effects of drug and alcohol misuse and yet does not always clarify its understanding of the issues. Different groups in society have different perceptions of the dangers and acceptability of different drug types.

Drugs education in schools is essential if we are to equip our children with the necessary skills, understanding and knowledge to move confidently into adult life. We have a responsibility to inform our pupils of the facts relating to the substances they might encounter in their environment. In some cases they will have already experienced the effect of drugs and alcohol on the adults around them. It is important that we are sensitive to the experiences that children may have.

We will not tolerate the misuse of drugs or alcohol within the school and its grounds. This includes adults who come on to the school premises who may be intoxicated or in possession of illegal drugs. Our school operates a no smoking policy at all times, anywhere on the site.

We recognise that some of our pupils and parents need a variety of prescribed medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these in conjunction with our student services and medical provision.

This substance misuse policy is part of our overall approach to health and wellbeing. Through our PCE curriculum, in PE, Science and Food Technology in particular and through iMatter we aim to ensure that pupils recognise the importance of what they choose to eat and drink and the effect that this can have. Self-respect and a healthy lifestyle are all part of an approach which will enable our pupils to make the right choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

Definition of “Drugs” for the Benefit of this Policy:

The term refers to:

- all illegal drugs
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes or shisha devices
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The Aims of the Policy:

By providing drug education, we aim to:

- increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about drugs
- develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy

- enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users
- ensure the safety of staff and pupils when on the school site.

In particular, we will:

- provide the information and support for children to be able to make healthy lifestyle choices
- encourage a supportive ethos in which issues can be discussed and questions answered
- provide appropriate role models and examples to illustrate a healthy lifestyle
- take a firm stance against illegal drugs
- recognise the valuable role that medication can have
- acknowledge that not all family members may make healthy choices, and examine some of the reasons why and the impact this can have
- draw attention to the effect that peers can have upon our decisions
- alert pupils to ways of seeking additional help and support where necessary
- ensure that pupils have access to balanced information and views against which they can clarify their own opinions
- help children establish the difference between fact, opinion and belief.

Procedure:

In order that these aims can be fulfilled, drugs education will be delivered through the curriculum and will include:

- the science curriculum (statutory) — including the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how the body's natural defences might be enhanced by immunisation and medicines
- PCE and Citizenship (non-statutory) — including the fact that all household products can be harmful if not used properly, which substances and drugs are legal/illegal and their effects and risks, the associated health risks and the safer choices that can be made
- visits and talks from outside agencies- Including a Year 9 Health Day in conjunction with Essex Youth Services. The work of Motivated Minds Agency & our links with the Canvey Youth Project.

Involving Parents or Carers:

Parents are invited to inspect the school drugs policy and drugs education programme. Parent representatives support the governing body in making decisions about education practice. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time to share any concerns and to see any materials that are being used.

Special Needs:

It is appropriate that all pupils have access to the information covered in our drugs education programme. Arrangements should be made within classrooms to enable

this to happen, either through additional LSA support, or by adapting curriculum materials. In most cases, the largely discursive nature of the subject will mean that all pupils have equal access.

It should be noted that some pupils will need to use medication regularly as part of their own special needs. This might be for either physical or emotional reasons. Care should be taken at all times to draw a distinction between different types of drug use.

Equal Opportunities:

It is important that pupils are given the opportunity to express themselves and ask questions regardless of gender, race and disability. The environment in which sensitive issues are discussed should be open and caring, enabling children to feel secure enough to raise issues and make comments.

In the Event of Disclosure:

There may be times during discussions about drugs when children make disclosures. If this happens, the teacher should listen sensitively to what the pupil has to say, while avoiding further disclosure in front of the class. At the end of the lesson, it might be appropriate to spend some time with the pupil to allow them the opportunity to speak. The Safeguarding in Schools, Child Protection policy must be followed and no further questions should be asked, or information written down.

Confidentiality cannot be promised-

As soon as is reasonable, the class teacher should pass on their own concerns to the designated person who will follow the agreed procedure for disclosure handling. The class teacher should always ensure he or she remains calm and should not appear shocked by what pupils might have to say. It is important that pupils understand the ground rules during any discussion and that they do not put pressure upon one another to reveal personal information.

Incident Management

Drug Use on the Premises:

Our school makes it clear that drug use on the premises is not acceptable except in the case of prescribed medication which is known to senior management. This includes:

- smoking on or around the school premises either during the school day or during evening events
- alcohol on the school site during the school day
- adults on the school premises who are evidently under the "influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgment "
- adults in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the school premises.

Where school staff suspect that there is transgression of these guidelines, senior management should be informed immediately and a judgment made as to how to deal with the situation.

Drug Use by Pupils:

Each case should be taken individually and the appropriate course of action decided by a senior member of staff. This may include:

- referral to parents
- referral to the police
- referral to social services
- referral to another external support agency
- counselling and support for individual children.

A combination of the above might be used. Decisions will be based upon the immediate and long-term safety of the pupil involved and the nature and time of the incidents. Parental involvement in any discussion is crucial except where the incident is one that is considered to relate to child protection. In this case, the Safeguarding in Schools, Child Protection policy should be followed and an immediate referral made.

Drugs Found on School Premises:

Needles/sharps-

These will be removed by the identified member of staff using appropriate gloves and placed in a "sharps box".

Alcohol and tobacco-

Parents/carers will normally be informed and given the opportunity to collect the alcohol or tobacco.

Illegal drugs

These should be confiscated in the presence of another adult. The drugs should be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the time and date they were found. The police should then be notified. The drugs should then be kept in the locked cabinet in the school finance office until they can be removed by the authorities.

Other policies which should be referred to include -

- PCE
- Behaviour for Learning
- Administration of Medicines
- First Aid

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