



Drug Education and Incident Policy

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Aims

- To help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society. (Our definition of a drug is any psychotropic substance – all legal drugs including alcohol and tobacco, all illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over-the counter and prescription drugs.)
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by providing opportunities for pupils to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To provide a supportive environment and well-structured procedure for any members of the school community who require intervention for drug use. (Drug use is drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately perceptible.)
- To ensure that the 'drug, alcohol and tobacco education' within the national curriculum (science and PSHCE) is taught to a high standard, by teachers that have a clear understanding of the issues involved.

Legislation and guidance

The school will follow the process set out in DfE & ACPO guidelines *Drug advice for schools* (Sept 2012) In the appendices are copies of the guidance on what to do:

- In the case of a drug-related medical emergency
- What to do in other incidents involving unauthorised drugs
- How to record an incident involving unauthorised drug use

Drug Incidents

In addition to the above the school will provide a combination of the following to help support our pupils who are involved in drug incidents:

- Counselling through appropriate agencies
- Mentoring
- Supervised break times
- Involvement in extracurricular activities
- Family conferences
- Research project on the drug or related topics

Sanctions may be initiated when a pupil is involved in a drug incident; these will follow the school's own behaviour policy. The Head Teacher will have the authority to dictate the sanctions imposed depending on each individual incident. Sanctions will always be used alongside the support and will be used in proportion with the offence.

Every incident will be recorded on a Cause for Concern (Safeguarding) sheet). The Schools' Safeguarding Officer will keep these records. They will be treated as confidential records and only accessible to the senior staff, the teacher of the child involved in the incident and any other agency that subsequently becomes involved.

Suspected misuse by a child

The following factors should be observed in children that are suspected to have some involvement in drug misuse.

- the student's attendance to school,
- behavioural patterns,
- change in academic attainment,
- personal relationships with other students and staff,



- physical appearance,
- what's going on for them outside of school as far as possible such as possible family issues

If drug misuse is suspected, then the teacher who has the concern should talk to the School's Designated Senior Person for Child Protection and, if appropriate, the student concerned but keep the discussion general - avoid asking the student directly if they are taking drugs; this will often cause antagonism and denial. They will then monitor the situation until the evidence is strong. Parents will be informed: it may be best to invite them in for a general discussion expressing concern about the student's progress or emotional wellbeing. Staff and the family should work together as far as possible to put in supportive strategies for the student without focusing specifically on the student's drug use unless they have admitted use. Always make information on confidential advice from outside agencies available to all students. Continue to monitor the student. Permanent exclusion will be used only as a last resort once all other support and sanctions have been tried without the student responding and the health and safety of staff and students are at risk from the continued presence of the student involved. Evidence suggests that exclusion can leave a pupil at more risk of involvement with drugs and only a minority make a successful transition to another school. Therefore, if this final step is taken, the school will inform appropriate agencies that can give ongoing support to the student.

Suspected Misuse by a parent

This will be especially important if there is concern for a child's health and safety and/or progress in school due to parents or caregivers drug dependency. In such cases the school will endeavour to provide extra support for the child such as:

- * Involvement in after-school clubs
- * Mentoring
- * Counselling
- * Pastoral Support Programme
- * Providing literature and information where appropriate
- * Keeping open communication between the school and the parent/caregiver on the child's progress.

Drug Education

The school is committed to providing an accurate drug education curriculum that meets the statutory requirements as set out in the National Curriculum Science. It will also endeavour to include opportunities that empower our pupils to make healthy informed choices throughout their life about all the decisions that they will have to make in their life, not just about drugs. The school will use a range of active teaching methods and resources. It will ensure that pupils have opportunity to discuss these issues as well as gain the necessary knowledge and skills, to make informed choices.

Use of tobacco and alcohol on school premises

The school has a no smoking policy. Parents and staff wishing to stop smoking can access the Newham Stop Smoking Service by contacting 020 7882 8230.

The School prohibits the drinking of alcohol on the school premises other than reasonable drinking of alcohol in connection with approved social functions taking place outside of school hours and when no children are present. Approval will be given at the discretion of the Head Teacher.



Medicines

Members of staff will not give medicines to children except in circumstances where there is Care Plan or specific prior written permission from parents, the medicine is provided by the parents and this has been agreed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Safeguarding Officers. Children requiring the use of asthma pumps are encouraged to go to the Inclusion Office to self-administer. Members of staff who bring medicines on to site (for example, paracetamol) must keep them safely locked up in their lockers.

School premises

The Site Supervisor or any other staff that find drug related paraphernalia on the school site should place it in a disposable plastic bag (stored in the Inclusion office) and report it immediately to the Site Supervisor. The incident will be investigated as appropriate and reported to the police. Syringe disposal can be organised through the council.

Help lines

Talk to Frank (formerly National Drugs Helpline)	0300 123 6600 0800 77 66 00	www.talktofrank.com
Change, Grow, Live (CGL)	0800 652 3879	https://www.changegrowlive.org/rise-newham
Help to Quit Smoking – Newham Council	020 7882 8230	https://www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/help-quit-smoking