



The Cottesloe School

## ***Drug Education and Incident Management Policy***

**Recommended by:**

**Teaching, Learning & Achievement Committee      Date: 3 February 2015**

**Adopted at Full Governing Body Meeting              Date: 17 March 2015**

**Signed by R J Collis DL, Chair of Governors:**

**Review date: Spring Term 2019 (earlier if any legislative change)**



## **DRUG EDUCATION AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT POLICY – MARCH 2015**

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers' guidance (latest version September 2012).

### **Drugs**

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act 1971, it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (e.g. possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). Solvents are dangerous substances as well. Under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1965, it is illegal for anyone to supply or offer to supply a substance if they know or believe that the substance being supplied will be inhaled by a person under 18 for the purpose of intoxication. Paradoxically it is not actually an offence to inhale solvents for the purpose of intoxication. However, the police are normally able to deal with such persons under public order provisions.

### **Aims:**

- To ensure that The Cottesloe School is free from illegal drugs, solvents and substances termed 'legal highs' to educate students on the effects of drugs (and solvents) on the mind and body.
- To provide opportunities for students to practice the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs.
- To promote the individual's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth.
- To explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To enable parents to acquire knowledge and support.
- Any student involved in illegal drugs when he/she is under the School's authority can expect to be permanently excluded from school and the police will be informed. Being under the School's authority means:
  - throughout the School day, whether on or off the premises;
  - whenever he/she is involved in any activity organised by the School;
  - whenever he/she is identifiable as a member of the School.

In addition, where it has been brought to the attention of the Headteacher that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the school reserves the right to permanently exclude him/her.

### **Tobacco**

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society. The school policy on smoking aims to give students the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike, that non-smoking represents the norm in society and that it receives support from the School and staff. Recent legislation has made it an offence for children under 18 years to be sold tobacco products.

**Aims:**

- To ensure that the smoking of cigarettes and electronic cigarettes is not tolerated at the school.
- To educate students as to the immediate dangers of smoking.
- To encourage those students who do smoke to break free from the habit.

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes or tobacco, is prohibited when a student is under the School's authority. The School's policy on drugs defines when a student is under the School's authority.

Students found smoking or in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or e-cigarettes can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate punishment administered. Subsequent offences may result in fixed term exclusion. For a persistent offender the Head Teacher reserves the right to review the student's place within the School community.

**Alcohol**

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents arises. The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

**Aims:**

- To develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body.
- To encourage sensible, appropriate and safe drinking behaviour.
- To practice personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present.
- To educate the students as to the place of alcohol in the political, social and economic environment in which it exists.
- Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited:
  - in school buildings or grounds (exception formal occasions sanctioned by the Headteacher);
  - when under the authority of the school, in public houses and other licensed premises and whenever prohibited by law.

This policy also applies to staff and students (including Sixth Form) whilst on residential trips in the United Kingdom or abroad.

Students found in possession of alcohol or using it, whilst under the authority of the School (as outlined in the policy on drugs) can expect to be suspended.

### **Support for parents**

From time to time the school will arrange sessions in which information about illegal drugs and their use will be presented, as well as on tobacco and alcohol.

### **Educational programme**

The School has a pro-active policy concerning the use of illegal drugs and substances, alcohol and tobacco. This is expressed in assemblies, tutor periods, science lessons and Personal Social, Health and Citizenship Education lessons.

In Science lessons the School follows the National Curriculum Science Syllabus concerning Drug Education. This is as follows:

#### **Key Stage 3**

- How smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.
- How abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affect health.

#### **Key Stage 4**

- The effects of solvents, alcohol and tobacco on the body and functions.

In PSHCE through tutor groups and assemblies, the following issues are addressed:

#### **Key Stage 3**

- Recognising personal responsibility for decisions about substance use.
- Knowledge about the basic facts concerning substances including their effects and relevant legislation.
- Awareness of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance abuse.
- The development of appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance abuse occurs.

#### **Key Stage 4**

- Understanding that Britain is a drug-using society and recognising different patterns of use and their effect.
- Recognising the impact of peer-group pressure on drug habits.
- Individuals are responsible for the choices they make about drug use.
- Being able to analyse safe levels of intake; e.g. tobacco is never safe, limited use of alcohol may be safe.
- Discussing the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs, particularly smoking and alcohol.

### **Possession of an illegal drug**

If any student is found in possession of a suspicious substance, it will be taken from him/her. The substance will then be taken immediately to the Assistant Headteacher. The Headteacher will be informed straightaway. The student will then be interviewed by a member of the Leadership Team. The police will be consulted concerning the nature of the substance. If it is an illegal drug, the student will be isolated immediately and his/her parents called to the school. The Headteacher will speak with them and the student can expect to be permanently excluded. The illegal drug will be handed over to the police who may prosecute the student.

### **Drug testing and searches**

Where there is concern about a student regarding the misuse of drugs, it is possible, with the consent of the relevant student and parents, for drug testing to take place. If a member of the SLT has just cause to believe that a student may be in possession of any of the aforementioned illicit substances, they have the right to conduct a bag search and request the student empties their pockets and removes their shoes. If a student refuses to comply, the school reserves the right to contact the police immediately.

### **Drug use out of school**

When drug use out of school is reported to the school we will contact the student's parent/carer, offer support through Addaction and ensure the student receives ongoing support and monitoring.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed in four years (earlier if any legislative change).