

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

'Drug misuse is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Drug education enables pupils to make healthy informed choices'
HMSO 1995

RATIONALE

The staff, parents and governors at Courtlands School are committed to the promotion of Health Education. In the light of the fact that drug use can affect all sections of the community, whether by direct use or as a result of others' use, we as a school aim to provide access for all our pupils to a programme of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education as outlined in the Government's National Drug Strategy.

A drug can be defined as any chemical substance (including medicines) that brings about a change in a person's bodily functions, behaviour or emotional state.

Whilst we would try to provide a safe environment where things can be discussed, staff should make it clear to all students that some shared information may have to be passed on to others who may have to take further action.

If any drug is found in a child's possession whilst on school premises parents will be informed at once and the appropriate action taken.

AIMS

The aim of our work in Drugs Education is to enable our students to make healthy, informed choices. We will endeavour to provide a safe environment where things can be discussed and healthy options promoted.

Current National Guidance states that the purpose of drug education should be;

"To give young people the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate them to their own actions, both now and in their future life"

And to

“provide accurate and up to date information on drugs and their effects on health, and on the risks and legal aspects of drug taking so that pupils are enabled to distinguish fact from myth”

Drug education should introduce opportunities to enhance pupils self respect, personal competence and self esteem by enabling them to:

- make informed decisions and choices
- develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- maintain and develop relationships
- develop self-confidence and improve self-esteem
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- develop the motivation to succeed

OBJECTIVES

Courtlands drug education programme will be ability appropriate and will build on what has gone before. Our students will be helped to:-

- know about alcohol, tobacco and drugs (legal and illegal) and have some knowledge of their effects
- know about medicines and their usage
- increase their knowledge of the use of substances and how substances can affect them
- develop their ability to make informed decisions and choices
- develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- make appropriate links with parents and outside agencies

TEACHING STRATEGIES

It is important that we create a supportive learning environment along with a range of teaching strategies that meet the needs of all pupils. Teachers should provide opportunity for:-

- individual and group work
- role play and drama
- discussion and debate

- structured games
- research
- learning outside the classroom, visits and community activities

Use of the above strategies will ensure that the programme clarifies and extends knowledge and information, explores attitudes and values and allows skills to be practised and developed.

Assessments will be carried out to inform teachers of what the pupils have learnt. To check progress of an individual, reference should be made to the P Levels and statements within the National Curriculum concerning attainment in Science and PSHE encompassing Citizenship.

Drug related incidents

This policy and procedures apply to:

- all legal and illegal drugs and medicines.
- all students, staff and visitors to the school.
- students' journeys between home and school.
- educational visits, residential courses and extra-curricular activities for students.

The possession, use or supply of any drug is regarded as a breach of school rules and the appropriate disciplinary procedure will be initiated, with the exception of:

- use of medicines by students with parental notification and knowledge by the individual class teacher.
- appropriate use of medicines by staff.
- the school operates a no-smoking policy within the school premises.
- there are no circumstances in which it is appropriate or acceptable for staff or visitors to use tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of students.

Any information about illegal drugs or the illicit sale of legal drugs outside the scope of this policy, as defined above, will be passed on to the police. This includes the sale of tobacco, solvents and alcohol to under age people and any information about the use, possession or supply of illegal drugs. 8.

The law covering the possession, use and supply of medicines, alcohol, solvents, illegal and other drugs is complex. The legal obligations of schools concern the responsibility for premises. It is an offence to knowingly allow:

the use of cannabis and opium

the sale of alcohol without a license

the production and supply of any illegal substance

It is legal to confiscate an illicit drug in order to prevent an offence or during the process of handing it to the police. Any confiscated illicit drugs will be given to the Head Teacher for safe storage, before passing them over to the

police. We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools> 9.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS

A suspected drug/ alcohol related incident is described as

- Suspect drugs/alcohol found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs/ alcohol
- An adult suspected of being in possession of drugs/ alcohol
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs/ alcohol
- An adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs/ alcohol

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the Head Teacher and Police
- Report and record the incident

The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Head Teacher who will contact the police in this area. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the designated teacher.

All staff are made aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be followed. If a search needs to be made the Head Teacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure and the Head Teacher is to be informed

Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse:

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