



Substance Misuse Policy

2016-2019



Our Ethos:

‘Everyone in our school community has a right to learn and grow, be treated with respect and feel safe. Each has a responsibility too to conduct themselves in a way that helps promote these rights helping us to ensure that we continue to develop a culture and ethos in which every person feels valued and knows how to value the contribution of others.’

The role of the school in drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and the management of drug related issues.

Introduction:

This policy is a 'stand-alone' policy that comes under the rationale of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in the school. This curriculum is delivered whenever appropriate rather than through discreet lessons.

There are two main parts to this policy. Part A is concerned with the provision of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and Part B is concerned with the management of drug related issues.

Rationale:

At South Somerset Partnership School we promote the ethos of value and respect for ourselves and others. All pupils have a right to be safe, to be listened to and to be cared about. The staff also recognise that though drugs may not always be harmful, all carry the potential for harm. Safety and effective management therefore underpin both the school's drugs education and its response to any incidents. Medicines (over the counter and prescription) will be treated with the same priority, care and respect as non-medicinal drugs.

The Aims of this Policy:

The school drugs, alcohol and tobacco policy aims to:

- safeguard the health and well-being of all pupils at all times
- consider all drugs, legal, medicinal and illegal and to respond constructively to the issues raised by their availability and use in society
- contribute to the school's drugs education programme
- provide clear guidance to staff about procedures for managing drug-related incidents.

Part A

Content and Organisation of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education

Aims:

We believe drugs, alcohol and tobacco education should not be delivered in isolation, but as part of healthy lifestyles in PSHE, however sometimes in small group or 1:1 delivery is appropriate. Science also delivers drugs education. The broad educational aims of our drugs, alcohol and tobacco education programme are to:

- promote knowledge and understanding of drugs, their use and dangers
- the law concerning drugs, tobacco and alcohol purchase and use
- where to go for help
- explore their attitudes but challenge the idea that drug taking among young people is the norm
- develop a range of skills to enable young people to make their own informed decisions about drugs. (Such skills include assessing and avoiding risks, communicating with others, assertiveness, accessing information and advice, helping others, first aid etc).

Content:

Through broad themes within and outside the classroom the young people are encouraged to:

- take responsibility for themselves and others
- feel positive about themselves
- participate
- make real choices and decisions
- meet and work with people
- develop positive relationships
- consider social and moral dilemmas
- consider some simple social and moral dilemmas arising from different aspects of life
- prepare for change and reintegration

The intention is for all our students to follow a programme of tobacco, alcohol and drug education that is age, ability and drug need appropriate.

Organisation:

Aspects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education are encompassed within the ethos of the school and may be delivered through:

- PSHE lessons
- Science Lessons
- Informal tutorial periods
- Circle/Group time
- Project/theme lessons

The drugs, alcohol and tobacco programme will be delivered by:

- All staff
- PSHE trained staff
- Occasional visiting agencies e.g. Targeted Youth Support, CAMHS

Planning to meet the needs of pupils:

The needs of pupils will vary according to the experiences and beliefs of individual pupils or groups of pupils and their families.

To assess the needs of our pupils we may use:

- draw and write activities
- group / class word searches, word storms
- graffiti sheets
- photographs, pictures and objects to stimulate discussion
- pupil-to-pupil interviews or surveys
- discussion where each pupil contributes something they know
- short quizzes.

We also use information from such enquiries to help us determine starting points and prioritise the content of drugs, alcohol & tobacco education. We deal with the subject of drugs through a planned programme and also in response to opportunities as they arise in the classroom. We revisit issues as the pupils' awareness, readiness and experience grow with time, to build on previous learning.

Resources are constantly being reviewed and updated. For example, some pupils with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviour are acceptable and to develop the confidence and skills to resist drugs. Alcohol and other drug misuse may be one of a number of symptoms of emotional or behavioural difficulties, or special family circumstances such as substance misusing parents, looked after children.

We recognise that sometimes some pupils' needs cannot entirely be met in school and we aim to support the welfare of such pupils by accessing specialist sources of help. Specialist help may include support from:

- Education Psychologist
- CAMHS
- Targeted Youth Support
- Youth workers (Reach)
- Social care workers
- School nurse team

Monitoring Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education:

The nature of the school is such that through daily briefings, staff meetings, informal discussions and tutorials we are aware of the impact of our drug education programme and monitor the quality of staff delivery. Staff have access to local training programmes.

Use of Outside Speakers and Visitors:

We are supported in our drugs, alcohol and tobacco education work by the agencies mentioned above. Contributors are always informed of what has gone before and what is expected of them, and their role and contribution carefully negotiated to ensure it meets the needs of the pupils.

Working with Parents:

We recognise that our parents/carers contribute to the education of their child and support them by regular reviews and provision of information and support.

Part B

The Management of Drug Related Issues

Legal Drugs

- (i) Medicines – Medicines would only be allowed on site in exceptional circumstances. Medicines cannot be brought onto the site without permission of the site Leader of Learning. Current Medication of students is listed as part of the induction process in case of incident or accident, either in the centre or on trips.
- Refer to Medicine's Policy

Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters or volatile substances in school. Parental cooperation is sought.

If any pupil is under the influence of a drug or otherwise thought to be in need of medical help, it will be sought at once. There is a qualified First Aider on site.

(ii) Tobacco

Smoking is not allowed on the centre premises. The no-smoking policy applies to all staff, students and visitors to the school, for example, parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff and contractors.

(iii) Alcohol

Alcohol is not permitted on the premises and will be confiscated. Parents will be informed.

(iv) Illegal Drugs

Illegal substances would be confiscated and the Police and Social Services informed.

The help and advice of outside professionals such as LEA Adviser, Social Worker, police, GP, TYS, CAMHS etc. will be informed or consulted **as appropriate**. We are aware that support agencies are only able to effectively support pupils who have agreed to be referred.

Parents and Carers

If the school discovers evidence of involvement of pupils with unauthorised drugs, parents/carers would be contacted unless this might compromise the pupil's safety. Parents are encouraged to come to the school and talk to us about any concerns or questions they have.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The drugs, alcohol and tobacco policy is monitored and evaluated through a review process involving pupils, parents, and staff and Area Management Group.

Date of issue/revision:

Chair of Management Committee:

Headteacher:

Date: