



Ousedale School

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Drugs Policy

DRAFT

Reviewed and approved by Personnel Committee	23/06/2021
Approved by Full Governors	05/07/2021
Next due for review by Personnel Committee	June 2023

1.0 Introduction

1.1 All young people at Ousedale School need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. The school has a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education and guidance about the risks and effects of drugs.

1.2 The purpose of Drugs Education is to develop young people's confidence and skills so that they are able to manage situations involving drugs. The school will ensure that education about drugs takes place in a safe and supportive learning environment. We will also ensure that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

1.3 The use of illegal drugs is detrimental to the development and education of our students and is likely to undermine their health, safety, independence, opportunities and respect for the law. Such illegal use of drugs will also undermine the integrity of the school community by exposing other students to temptation and to the risk of criminal proceedings.

1.4 The Drugs Education Programme will enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects. It will challenge attitudes and help students to develop skills such as being assertive and being a positive example amongst their peers.

1.5 The school is aware that some students are more vulnerable to drug misuse and that we can help to reduce the impact of risk factors and strengthen protective factors by promoting:

- supportive and safe relationships;
- regular school attendance;
- ability to cope with the social and academic demands of school life;
- strong and supportive social networks;
- good social skills;
- good knowledge of the effects and risks associated with drugs;
- realistic self awareness and self esteem;
- good knowledge of general health and how to ensure good mental health and well-being;
- good knowledge of how to access help and information;
- counselling and other support mechanisms;
- participation in extra curricular activities;
- working partnerships with parents/carers.

2 Aims

The aims of our Drugs Policy are to:

- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use Ousedale School;
- enable staff to manage effectively drugs related incidents on school premises;
- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- make clear the legal responsibilities and requirements of Ousedale School;
- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school. Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drugs education programme;
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs;
- ensure the drugs education programme meets statutory requirements.

3 Definitions and Terminology

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically,

emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, vaporised electronic cigarettes, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc. However, the definitions and terminology may alter over time due to societal changes but will still be classed as illegal or legal substances.

4. The management of substance abuse

In respect of substance abuse teachers' responsibilities lie within two main areas:

- paramount duty of care for the education, safety and well-being of students entrusted to the school;
- observance of, and compliance with, laws relating to controlled substances, drugs, alcohol etc.

Where substances open to abuse (e.g. solvents, glues) are legally held within the school, such substances will be strictly controlled and stored, and the use of them supervised. (See Health and Safety Policy).

Where incidents of abuse do occur, or there is reasonable suspicion of such incidents, the school will act promptly.

The parents will be informed as soon as possible, by a Pastoral and Academic Leader (PAL), Deputy Head or the Headteacher, if the school has evidence of their child's involvement, or probable involvement with alcohol, drugs or solvent abuse.

Any information concerning individual students in relation to abuse will be treated with the utmost circumspection, and not be disclosed to anyone except for appropriate staff without the parental consent.

Students will be made aware through form tutors and PALs that the school does not accept the misuse of substances, and of the sanctions likely to be imposed on offenders.

5. Drugs on school premises and sanctions

These can apply to instances which occur in school, between home and school, on work experience and school visits.

5.1 Tobacco:

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students found in possession of tobacco products (including vaporised electronic cigarettes and any associated paraphernalia) will have them confiscated, along with any matches/lighters. No tobacco products will be returned to parents/carers. Parents of students caught smoking on site, or in school uniform outside of school, will be informed by letter for the first and second time. On the third occasion, repeat offenders will be spoken to by the Health Coordinator regarding the health consequences of smoking, and parents may be invited in to school to discuss the continued breach of school rules. Exclusion may be considered for students who continue to smoke on the school premises or in school uniform outside of school. Students who smoke inside a building will be excluded. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

5.2 Alcohol:

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day or in school uniform outside of school.

- Students found drunk/drinking

The first duty of the school is to have regard to the safety of the student by rendering or obtaining appropriate assistance/treatment. If there is disruption caused to the good order of the school, parents will be contacted to collect the student. All cases of drunkenness will be reported to the parent and the disciplinary action following from the incident will be confirmed to them which may include an exclusion.

- Students found in possession of alcohol

The alcohol will be confiscated. All such incidents will be reported to the parent and the disciplinary action, which may include an exclusion following from the incident will be confirmed to them.

For repeat offenders information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

5.3 Solvents:

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents.

- Students found abusing solvents

The first duty of the school will be to have regard for the safety of the student by rendering or obtaining appropriate assistance/treatment. All solvents/apparatus will be confiscated and a sample of the solvent should go to the hospital (if the student is hospitalised). The parent/guardian will be informed immediately and any disciplinary action, which may include an exclusion following from the incident will be confirmed to them.

In cases where the school has reasonable evidence for believing a student has involvement in solvent abuse outside school the parents will be informed of the possible danger to their child.

Information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

5.4 Illegal drugs and “psychoactive substances”

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances (including drug laced drinks, sweets etc. the list is not exhaustive and will be determined by external agencies e.g. Police/ compass) or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

5.5 Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community. Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain in the School would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school

A member of the SLT will (normally) be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher.

5.6 Drug Misuse outside the school premises

The school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

5.7 Controlled drugs (NB this relates to abuse – not to those controlled drugs prescribed by a medical practitioner.):

- Students suspected of possession of a (non-medically prescribed) controlled drug

Where there are strong grounds for suspicion a Deputy Head or the Headteacher, usually accompanied by another adult, will ask to search the student. The school will involve a PCSO/Police Officer where necessary.

- Students found in possession of, or using controlled drugs in school

The drugs will be immediately confiscated and handed over to a police officer as soon as possible and officially reported.

The parents/carers will be contacted as soon as possible.

If this is a first offence the student will be excluded from school and in certain situations it may warrant a permanent exclusion; repeat offenders may be permanently excluded from school. This will be separate to any action taken by the police. The LA and the Chair of Governors will be informed. Copies of all relevant documentation will be forwarded to the appropriate

parties.

Information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

- Students found supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (pushing)

Police will be called immediately, parents contacted as soon as possible and student(s) excluded in the interests of and under the duty of care towards non-involved students. The likely outcome for the student(s), separate to any action taken by the police, will be permanent exclusion.

NB. The level of sanctions applied in the above cases will relate to the individual incident, be consistent with other breaches of discipline, and take account of the student's record in school. All partners will wish to protect the good name of the school.

5.8 Criteria for Police involvement

5.8.1 Informing the Police:

- all incidents involving the misuse of controlled drugs will be reported to the Police;
- where any substance is misused by an individual, and a third party (student or member of the community) has in all likelihood supplied the substance illegally, such information will be passed to the Police.
- a senior member of staff who is responsible for the school's drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents. This approach should be updated as part of a regular review of the policy.

5.8.2 Searches:

- In line with legislation the staff at school reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.
- Searches will be carried out by PALs or members of the Senior Leadership Team and if possible the same gender and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened. Students who refuse to allow senior members of staff to search their belongings where there are grounds for suspicion of substance misuse (controlled drugs, alcohol, solvents, tobacco), will be subject to disciplinary measures;
- additionally, where searches relate specifically to alcohol, solvents or controlled drugs, and students refuse to cooperate with searches by senior staff, the student will be detained and the Police asked to attend the school to perform a search.
- following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school will make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action on SIMS. An e-mail will be sent to the relevant PAL of the student detailing all of the information above and this will be recorded in SIMS. There is no legal requirement to do this.

5.9 General power to confiscate

A schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a Student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order

and discipline. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

6.0 Legal drugs

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the school may - inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco (including vaporised electronic cigarettes and any associated paraphernalia), alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area.

6.1 Controlled drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs, the school will follow national guidance by:

- ensuring that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- sealing the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the student;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

6.2 Students whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs

The school will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue, the school will follow the procedures set out in its drug policy. This will include protocols for assessing the student's welfare and support needs and when and how to involve other sources of support for the child such as Children's Services, services commissioned by Milton Keynes Council and, where appropriate, the family.

6.3 Support for students

The welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Counsellor, Health Co-ordinator, PAL, or Learning mentor, Tutor, PILC)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. Compass
- Working with the Police.

7.0 Drugs Education

7.1 In a combination of PSHE and subject-based lessons the school will provide a coherent programme of drugs education which will contribute to the preventative measures taken by the Government and other bodies.

7.2 The PSHE Coordinator is responsible for putting together and evaluating a programme of drugs education covering Years 7 – 11. Staff will also be trained to deliver the programme.

7.3 The PSHE Coordinator will ensure he/she is aware of the latest guidelines on drugs classification and education, liaising with outside agencies as appropriate.

7.4 The Head of Sixth Form is responsible for producing material which is consistent with the policy and incorporating it into the tutorial programme as appropriate.

7.5 The Head of Curriculum will oversee the development of the drugs education programme for Years 7 – 11.

7.6 Aims:

- deliver a comprehensive and coherent programme within a positive and secure environment;
- ensure that whilst being informative no aspect of drug use/misuse should appear promotional either intentionally or unintentionally;
- build on and develop an anti-drug culture within our student body;
- continually review the programme to ensure its content and approach is current and relevant;
- develop students' understanding of the wider impact of drug use/misuse beyond the user;
- promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- increase awareness of the short and long term risks, the effects of drugs and how they relate to achieving a healthy lifestyle;
- develop relevant skills across the curriculum including decision making and effective communication;
- empower students to take appropriate action in encounters with drugs, suppliers and users;
- clarify misconceptions on drug use through education, resources and support;
- increase students' ability to assess and manage risk;
- provide opportunities for students to explore risk in appropriate and positive ways across the curriculum;
- develop fact-finding and research skills so students are able to independently track down information, help and advice;
- strengthen emotional skills including self-esteem, self awareness, resisting pressures and coping strategies;
- explore attitudes to drugs including social influences, stereotypes and the media;
- clarify the laws and rules relating to drugs and engage with classifications and their relevance;
- incorporate the programme into a whole school approach addressed by representatives of all areas of the school and its community.

8.0 Monitoring and evaluation

8.1 The Personnel Committee, on behalf of the Governing Board, will review the policy on a biennial basis.