



A DRUG POLICY

Part 1: Drug Education in the Curriculum

Part 2: The management of drug related incidents on school premises

1.
 - a. This policy has been written with the awareness that Oswestry, like any other small town in the country, has an active 'drug scene' to which the pupils of The Marches School and Technology College are exposed to a greater or lesser extent simply by living in or near to the town.
 - b. The aims of the policy are:
 - to educate the pupils, principally through the medium of PSD lessons, in the effects of both legal and illegal substances both on the body and the mind.
 - to provide information in seeking help and guidance in avoiding involvement at all.
 - to provide a culture in which informed choices can be made by pupils.
 - to make clear the school's attitude to the use of both illegal and legal substances on the school site in accordance with the school's Code of Conduct and Equal Opportunities policy.
 - c. The policy was revised in September 2003 in consultation with all relevant persons including staff and pupils, parents, governors and other outside agencies.
2. Drugs Education – a taught programme

This is delivered in PSD in identifiable modules throughout the Year groups by experienced staff. The policy is to give information, facts, allow discussion, weigh up the pros and cons of drug taking, both legal and illegal, and invite pupils to consider their own choices. Use is made of videos, outside speakers, the police and printed materials. Each summer the programme is reviewed and altered as necessary.
3.
 - a. The school's expectations regarding all substances including tobacco, alcohol and other legal and illegal substances are clearly laid out in the school's Code of Conduct, ie they are banned on the school site and pupils found in possession of such substances will be subject to the school's behaviour and discipline policy.
 - b. Medicines prescribed by the medical profession and which have to be taken at intervals during the school day are to be handed to the school nurse, Mrs Ramsay, at the beginning of the school day with a letter from parents and/or medical professionals regarding their use. Pupils may then come to the medical room at the required time(s) to receive their medicine.

4. a. Managing drug-related incidents in school

A drug-related incident might include:

- rumours of pupils or parents using drugs
- reports of pupils or parents using drugs
- use of drugs by pupils in school or on school visits
- pupils coming into school under the influence of drugs
- pupils asking a member of staff about their or another colleague's illegal drug use
- pupils bringing drugs into school
- finding drugs or drug paraphernalia in school
- each of the above related to a member of staff/governor
- possession of drug-related equipment
- pupils using "drug culture" language
- pupils making reference to the use of drugs

b. If a pupil is suspected of, or found to be:

- drunk or under the influence of solvent intoxication on the premises
- suffering the effects of any substance

A senior member of staff should be informed followed by the following actions, to be determined by circumstances.

c. The health and safety of the pupil should be the primary concern. If the pupil is thought to be suffering from the effects of solvents or to have ingested paracetamol then an ambulance should be called. A pupil who is intoxicated with alcohol should be removed from the school premises as soon as possible, preferably by the parents or guardians. A pupil thought to be suffering from the effects of drugs should be accompanied at all times until removed from the premises as soon as possible, preferably by the parents or guardians.

d. Supporting Pupils

The prime consideration is to act in the best interests of the pupil. Therefore, before deciding on appropriate action, factors relating to their personal misuse and situation in which they misuse should be considered. Questions should be asked about the drug, the pupil, the situation and who can best manage which problem. Personnel to be considered should be Mr Davies, Miss Glover, the appropriate Pastoral Leader, Roger Thomas, Kath Davies and the parent(s)/carer, plus medical or social services personnel.

e. Assessing the Situation

Interviewing pupils – the purpose of the interview is to confirm or refute suspicions or allegations sufficient to decide on further action. A witness should be present. A member of LG should undertake this.

f. Searching Pupils

The senior member of staff can search a pupil's locker if they have reason to believe it contains drugs or controlled substances.

If the LG suspects a pupil of concealment on their person, every effort should be made to secure the voluntary production of these by asking the pupil to turn out their pockets and bag. This should be done in the presence of a witness.

If the pupil refuses, then they should be isolated and the police called to deal with the situation.

g. Pupils should be listened to and all discussions conducted using a calm non-judgemental approach with open-ended questioning.

5. a. Parents should be informed when their child is involved in a drug-related incident, either by the Pastoral Deputy or Pastoral Leader. This should be done by telephone or face-to-face.

b. Disciplinary Action

Sanctions for a drug-related incident should be consistent with those in the school's Behaviour Management discipline policy regarding both legal and illegal substances. They should reflect the different kinds of drug related offences in that they can be varied.

Pupils found to be in possession of drugs will be excluded for 15 days.

Pupils found to be dealing in drugs will be permanently excluded.

c. Informing the police would be considered by Mr Davies after due consideration of the nature of the incident.

6. a. Drugs on School Premises

Staff should take possession of a suspected substance and immediately inform a member of LG. This should be done preferably in the presence of a colleague and taken to Mr Davies for secure storage pending the arrival of the police or disposal. Make a note of the time and date of taking possession and where it was found.

7. a. Support strategies for pupils

- The school pastoral system
- Roger Thomas, Youth Worker
- Kath Davies, Counsellor
- School Nurse
- Outside agencies
- Parents

Support strategies for staff

- Kath Davies
- LG
- Shropshire LEA counselling service

8. a. The range of sanctions available are laid out in the school Code of Conduct and policy for behaviour and discipline. These will be used at the discretion of Mr Davies.

9. a. The school's drug policy should be available to pupils and parents in the school brochure and should be maintained at regular intervals at LG meetings, perhaps every six months.

The policy should be reviewed annually.

JG/HCB
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