



DRUGS POLICY

Introduction

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) because of the changing drugs scene both nationally and locally. The policy is informed by local information obtained through the Police and Schools Panel.

The philosophy of the school is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all pupils are enabled to develop their learning and personal skills. This aims to prepare them for all the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future.

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has the potential to cause harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol & tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Aims of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

This policy has been written with reference to national and LA guidelines and been informed by relevant research data.



Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Pupils and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children

The school is a no smoking site at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed.

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

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

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
- Rumours of parents, staff or pupils using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or pupils using drugs

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance. A member of the SLT will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the investigation of drug-related incidents. Incidents will be dealt with, after making an assessment of the situation, and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours. Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Evidence of drug use or possession will not necessarily result in permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will only be considered in serious cases. Each case will be assessed and levels of



sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil's involvement.

If any pupil or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for a discussion. Illegal substances will be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored. Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved. Similarly the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of action should be taken.

Lyng Hall School works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law, the police will usually be involved in either the confiscation of items, Restorative Justice Conferencing or group work and education as well as links with home.