

Drug Misuse Policy



This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's policies for: Safeguarding, Child Protection, Positive Behaviour, Health and Welfare, Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022, DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies September 2012

Guiding Principles

The school believes that as part of the care and welfare of its pupils it has a duty to:

- Inform and educate pupils on the consequences of drug use and misuse
- Enable pupils in need of support to come forward and for the school to take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being
- Provide discrete curriculum time for education about drugs
- Keep parents involved and informed in the implementation of this policy

Aim and Objective of Drug Education

Our key aim is to enable pupils to make informed choices and decisions about their health styles and therefore minimise the number of young people who engage in drug misuse.

We shall achieve this by providing opportunities for pupils to:

1. Acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
2. Be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
3. Enhance their decision-making skills through the context of drug education.

Confidentiality

Staff will follow the school's guidance regarding confidentiality, child protection and safeguarding if disclosures are made which suggest a child may be at risk.

Curriculum Provision

All pupils are entitled to take part in the activities included in the drug education programme through PSHE programme of study.

At John Chilton School we are committed to providing a relevant programme to address the concerns we have surrounding drugs and young people because:

- Experimentation is occurring at an increasingly younger age
- Pupils of primary and secondary age are likely to be exposed to the effect and influences of drug misuse in the wider community
- There is correlation between pupils in a drug user/using community and under achievement and behaviour problems at school.
- There are specific dangers for vulnerable SEND pupils within the community, particularly risks of coercion into organised drug-related crimes such as 'County Lines'.

We acknowledge that whilst the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising we also recognise that a larger number of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We see it is essential to support their differing needs and to take into account changing circumstances when planning and delivering the programme.

At John Chilton School our practice:

- Takes into account the age, gender and cultural/social background of the pupils at which the education programme is targeted
- Provides factual and accurate information
 - Provides drug education at regular intervals throughout the pupil's school life so as to maximise its effectiveness
 - Backs up the programme in school with access to advice or specialist help for pupils with problems or concerns with which the school staff feel they cannot address
 - Involves parents and encourage them to take an interest.

Outline of content of the drug education programme:

Education is offered to the pupils in appropriate and sensitive ways through the PSHE Curriculum that take account of the age and cognitive ability of the pupil. Depending on the individual circumstances the following topics are covered. Drug misuse is taught as part of spiralling PSHE Curriculum that starts with general safety awareness in Primary, progressing through to items of danger around the home, specific medication versus drug misuse in Phase 2/3, building further to specific drug information and awareness of coercion, gang culture, County Lines in Phase 3 -5. We resource our PSHE curriculum carefully and also provide interventions for specific pupils at risk, where necessary.

Our school Drug misuse provision responds flexibly to national and local trends, issues and data. Representatives from the School Safeguarding Team attend local contextual safeguarding, DSL and Prevent meetings where up to date social data is shared. This is then fed-back to school staff to be adapted and included in relevant PSHE provision. For example, potential new drug and gang profile trends in Ealing.

By the time pupils move on from John Chilton School.

All pupils should know:

- That all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.
- That all substances can be harmful if not used properly.
- There are different types of medicine and that some people need them to live a normal life.
- Simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents, household substances.
- The personal drugs that they need to take in a simple way.
- The safe people who give them the drugs they need to take.

Most pupils will know that:

- That there are over-the-counter prescribed drugs, legal and illegal substances and have some understanding of their effects.
- How to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressure from friends and others.
- The important and beneficial part which drugs play in society.
- Where to get help for themselves or someone they know involved in substance abuse.

Some pupils will know:

- The basic facts about substances, including their effects, and the laws relating to substance abuse.

- Effective ways of resisting negative pressure to abuse drugs, including from their peers.
- That they have a personal responsibility for the decisions they make about substance use.

Organisation of Drug Education

The PSHE Lead will be responsible for planning and co-ordinating the programme in conjunction with the Assistant Headteacher (Health and Welfare Lead) The Learning Mentor and SEMH team will deliver the programme in discrete drugs education sessions. The use of visitors and outside agencies will be incorporated as appropriate and not instead of school staff.

Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of this policy

The Health and Welfare Leader will review the policy to ensure it is effective and up to date with regard to advice and legislation that is provided to schools. Views of the staff and parents will be sought via meetings and/or questionnaires with regard to the implementation of the Health and Welfare curriculum of which drug education forms one aspect.

Staff Training

The Health and Welfare Leader will be responsible for keeping up to date through attendance at relevant sessions provided by local and national organisations. All new staff will be informed of this policy when starting their position. Feedback to staff will be through the schools channels of communication.

Managing drug related incidents

1. The Boundaries of the Policy

The policy is relevant to incidents taking place in the following geographical environments:

- In and on the school premises, including events that take place before and after the school day. This includes evening events.
- One-day or part-day excursions, excluding those made with external agencies.
- All residential visits.
- Within the immediate vicinity of the school grounds including the front and rear areas.
- On home/school transport.

If an incident takes place outside of these areas the Headteacher may use their discretion concerning the effects it may have on the student and the school and act appropriately. This could include contacting parents and the police.

This policy is to be followed by all members of John Chilton School staff, incorporating all Governors, parents, pupils, visitors, and teaching and non-teaching staff. This policy also applies to members of staff found to be using illegal substances. The Headteacher will use his/her discretion on incidents taking into account the safety of the member of staff, other members of staff, Governors and parents as well as the reputation of the school in the community.

2. Authorised Substances

Medicines of any kind are to be handed in to the nurse who will supervise the administration of the medicine. Other authorized substances in school are stored in line with COSHH guidelines (Control of substances hazardous to health), over seen by health and safety team.

3. Drugs Definition

Drugs are a mind-altering substance that comes in various forms ranging from solvents, volatile substances (aerosols), over the counter and prescribed medicines to alcohol, tobacco and controlled substances. (NB; throughout the document the term ‘drugs’ will refer to this definition).

4. Defining Drug Incidents

A drugs incident is likely to involve suspicions, observation, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving unauthorised drugs.

5. Dealing with Medical Emergencies

In every case of an incident involving drugs, all staff must place the utmost priority on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If members of staff are in doubt, they should seek medical assistance immediately. In life threatening situations (i.e. someone is not breathing, their airway is blocked or their blood is not circulating) 999 should be called immediately.

The named designated teacher for child protection (the Headteacher) should be consulted before any phone call home is made in relation to possible child protection issues.

6. Confiscation and Disposal of Illegal Drugs

It is an offence under Section 8 of the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1971* for the management of establishments (this includes schools) to knowingly permit the supply and production of any illegal drugs on their premises. It is also an offence to allow premises to be used for the smoking of cannabis or opium.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and to prevent an offence being committed in relation to that drug. Staff can confiscate drugs they suspect to be illegal or unauthorised. All confiscated substances should be stored in the school office. An adult witness should be present when confiscations occur and a record should be kept of the details. Illegal confiscated drugs will be handed to the police.

Staff follow the most up to date guidance about confiscation laid down in *Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022* document. This document clarifies protocol for all searches or confiscation, to which the school adheres.

The opening paragraph of this document confirms:

*“Headteachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item listed (below) or any other item that the school rules identify as an item which may be searched for. The list of prohibited items (includes) : • knives and weapons; • alcohol; • **illegal drugs**;*

7. Managing Drug Related Incidents

To ensure that the adequate procedures are adhered to, within the confines of the law it is vital that staff follow the set procedures.

a) Identifying an Incident

The following are examples of incidents:

- Finding drugs/solvents on the premises
- A student being found in possession of drugs/solvents
- Students being under the influence of drugs/alcohol/solvents
- Drugs being supplied on or around the school premises by students
- A student admitting a drug/alcohol/solvent problem

b) Establishing the Nature of an Incident

When there is a drug related incident, a careful investigation to judge the nature and seriousness of each incident is vital. Careful attention should be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved. A range of factors may be relevant and need exploration to determine the seriousness and needs of those involved and an appropriate response.

c) A Range of Responses

We have a range of options for responding to the identified needs of those involved in a drug incident. The needs of pupils in relation to drugs may come to light other than via an incident, for example, through the pastoral care system. The response may also serve to enforce and reinforce the school rules. Responses should always aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and to develop as individuals. Any sanctions should always be justifiable.

d) Dealing with the Incident; Powers of Search

School staff can search a pupil for suspected drugs if the pupil agrees. Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item (e.g. illegal drugs). Searches should always be carried out in the presence of another adult witness.

e) Storage

Any substance seized must be stored in the identified secure place (main school office safe). The finder should sign his/her name on the packaging and a colleague must witness such action.

DfE 2012 Drug ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) + DfE Drug Advice for Schools states:

“Items found as a result of a search: An authorised staff member carrying out a search can confiscate any item that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- *poses a risk to staff or pupils;*
- *is prohibited, or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made;*
- *is evidence in relation to an offence.*

Controlled drugs must be delivered to the police as soon as possible unless there is a good reason not to do so. In these cases, the member of staff must safely dispose of the drugs. In determining whether there is a good reason to dispose of controlled drugs, the member of staff must have regard to the following guidance issued by the Secretary of State:

The member of staff should take into account all relevant circumstances and use their professional judgement to determine whether they can safely dispose of the controlled drug. When staff are unsure as to the legal status of a substance and have reason to believe it may be a controlled drug, they should treat it as such. If the member of staff is in doubt about the safe disposal of controlled drugs, they should deliver them to the police.”

f) Involving Parents and Guardians

In any incident involving unauthorised drugs we will normally involve the pupil's parent/guardian and explain how the school intends to respond to the incident and to the pupil's needs. In exceptional circumstances, where we suspect that to do this might put the pupil's safety at risk or if there is any other cause for concern for the pupil's safety at home then caution should be exercised when considering involving parents/guardians.

In any situation where a pupil may need protection from the possibility of abuse, the school's named child protection person should be consulted and local child protection procedures followed with social services.

g) Contacting the Police

The decision to contact the police should be made by the Headteacher.

Further information and DFE guidance:

- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies September 2012

Link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

- DFE Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022

Link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

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Approved by Governors..... Feb 2023