

Drugs Policy (School)

Equality Impact Assessment

The EIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The EIA has not identified any conflict with the Trust's co-operative values and the Church Schools' values.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adjust the policy to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better promote equality.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Inclusive of protected characteristics

Provenance	Date
Working Party (SLT)	Nov 2018

Review Date
October 2020

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Ethos incl. Behaviour Policy

Drugs Policy

Mullion School condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances. We are committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safe guard their well-being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school will seek to persuade pupils in need of support, to come forward.

Aims:

Current national guidance states that the purpose of drug education should be:

- To give young people the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

Specific aims, detailed in national guidance are:

- To increase students' knowledge about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

And to enable them to:

- Improve their self-esteem
- Make informed decisions and choices
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- Maintain and develop relationships
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Develop the motivation to succeed.

At Mullion School the whole-school approach to drug education supports this purpose and the implementation is set up to fulfil these aims. We clearly understand that we have a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse and understand that Health Education is an important part of our PSHE and general curriculum provision.

Implementation:

At Mullion School, a coherent and continuous drug education programme operates as part of the whole-school approach to PSHE, with some input in each year of the school.

The delivery occurs in class teaching, national curriculum subjects, PSHE, tutorial time, assemblies and presentations by visitors. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Community Police, Social Services, the LA and Health and Drugs Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs education and to deal with instances of substance use and misuse.

The following principles are applied in every session/module of drug education:

- Ground rules are negotiated for the discussion of this sensitive issue
- An assessment of where students are in terms of e.g., knowledge, language, skills, interest and anxieties is the first activity.
- We will develop a range of teaching methods to use, which will encourage the active and interactive participation of all students.
- Information that is provided is comprehensive, accurate, up-to-date and unbiased.
- Students are given an opportunity to reflect on their learning.

The issues of disclosure, confidentiality and child protection may need to be addressed during the

negotiation of ground rules, or at other relevant points in the programme. Current advice from the DfE is that teachers “can offer no guarantee of confidentiality”.

Scope:

This policy and procedures apply to:

- All legal and illegal drugs and medicines;
- All students, staff and visitors to the school;
- The school premises;
- Students’ journeys between home and school;
- Educational visits, residential courses and extra-curricular activities for students.

The possession, use or supply of any drug is regarded as a breach of school rules and the appropriate disciplinary procedure will be initiated, with the exception of:

- The use of medicines by students with parental notification and knowledge of the school’s Key Stage Manager
- The appropriate use of medicines by staff
- The smoking of tobacco by staff on journeys between school and home
- Consumption of alcohol by staff and visitors during organised social occasions on the premises when there are no students on site.

There are no circumstances in which it is appropriate / acceptable for staff or visitors to use tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of students. Any information about illegal drugs or the illicit sale of legal drugs outside the scope of this policy, as defined above, will be passed on to the police. This includes sale of tobacco, solvents and alcohol to under age people and any information about the use, possession or supply of illegal drugs.

The Law and Drug related incidents at Mullion School:

The law covering the possession, use and supply of medicines, alcohol, solvents, illegal and other drugs is complex. The legal obligations of schools are about responsibility for premises. It is an offence to knowingly:

- Use or supply any illegal drugs or non-prescription drugs

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take.

All incidents should be reported to the Headteacher or Assistant Headteachers who will instigate the appropriate action in line with current policy.

All action by members of staff in relation to drugs incidents should be witnessed by another member of staff.

To search a pupil, or his/her bags, consent must be given by the pupil. If it is refused, we will explain that the school’s only option is to call the police and ask them to carry out the search. Parents will always be informed.

It is legal to confiscate an illicit drug in order to prevent an offence or in the process of handing it to the police. All substances (legal and illegal) must be deposited in the school safe. Plastic bags should be used to package all substances and sealed with a signed and dated label.

At Mullion School sanctions are listed in the Ethos and Behaviour Policy, including drug-related

incidents. Please refer to this policy for guidance when deciding which sanction is appropriate. In the case of illegal substances, these should be destroyed by the Police.

- Parents will be informed.
- The Police will be involved.
- Consideration of involving external agencies in a re-education programme.

School Procedures:

Until the next review of this policy the procedures will be distributed to all staff, applied in relevant circumstances and details entered on a copy of the attached Record of drug-related situations form.

The effectiveness of these will be assessed during the next review of the policy. Parents will be contacted immediately in the case of a medical emergency, if the police are called to carry out a personal search and at the assessment stage in other situations. If a decision is made not to inform parents because this may compromise the child's safety, the reasons for the decision will be clearly defined and recorded.

The following staff are trained in first aid, and can be contacted at the school office in the case of an emergency: Mrs S Bennett; Mrs S Roberts; Mr R Gibbons; Mr W Davey – Emergency First Aiders – Mrs H Mathias; Miss S Bunyan and Mrs D Burgess.

Samples of suspected illegal substances will be handed to the School Finance Officer who will store them in a specified locked container, together with a signed and dated witnessed statement including all relevant information about the source of the sample.

A decision will be made at the assessment stage whether the sample will be destroyed or handed to the police. If it is destroyed, a signed and witnessed statement must be made to this effect.

The Law Relating to Drugs

To avoid breaches of rules or laws resulting from confusion or uncertainty about what is and what is not allowed, the legal position relating to each drug should be clearly explained to young people as they become ready for the information. This is in addition to their understanding of the school rules about drugs. School staff, therefore need to be aware of the laws governing the supply, possession and use of drugs. This summary reflects the law of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is for guidance only and should not be relied on as definitive statement of the law. Professional advice should always be sought where appropriate.

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is the principal criminal law governing illegal drugs. It controls those drugs 'capable of having harmful effects sufficient to constitute a social problem.' The drugs it covers are divided into three classes: A, B and C. Many controlled drugs have medical uses, so the Act places these drugs into five schedules which control these uses. Schedule 1 drugs are considered to have no medical use and doctors cannot prescribe them. They can only be possessed with a special license, they include cannabis and LSD. Schedules 2, 3 and 4 cover most controlled drugs that have medical uses. They can only be supplied with a prescription. Schedule 5 covers over the counter medicines available from chemists that contain tiny amounts of controlled drugs.

Some controlled drugs may be possessed legally if purchased from a pharmacy or supplied on a doctor's prescription. In other cases, the drugs covered by the Act are illegal to possess or supply. Offences involving Class A drugs are the most serious and carry greater penalties. A brief summary is illustrated in the following table:

Class A Class B Class C

Principal drugs

Included Opium; heroin, methadone; cocaine (including crack);

LSD, ecstasy;

Processed magic mushrooms; any Class B drug

Prepared for injection Amphetamines;

Cannabis resin,

'herbal' cannabis and hash oil; barbiturates; codeine Cannabis

Mild amphetamines; Temazepam (tranquilliser), DF118 (painkiller), (most) anabolic steroids

Maximum penalties for possession 7 years + a fine, 5 years + a fine, 2 years + a fine

Maximum penalties for trafficking Life imprisonment + a fine, 14 years + a fine, 5 years + a fine

These are the maximum penalties a Crown Court can impose. A magistrate is restricted to imposing a maximum of 6 months imprisonment and a fine of £2000. It is important to realise that these maximum sentences will depend upon previous offences and other factors. They are not automatic. Penalties imposed are likely to be much less. Police have the power to caution and not prosecute in some situations.

Drugs Education in PSHE

Year 7

This unit introduces pupils to drugs education in secondary school and focuses on a general treatment of the names, effects and classifications of some illegal drugs as well as looking at the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol and solvent abuse.

Year 8

The focus in Year 8 is developing responsibility and being true to oneself. We focus on 'legal highs' (which have now become illegal), the misuse of alcohol and the impact it can have on family life and the names and effects of other illegal substances. The organisation 'FRANK' will support our sessions.

Year 9

The unit of work in Year 9 builds on previous knowledge with a growing emphasis on making informed decisions about behaviours associated with taking illegal drugs. The misuse of cannabis will be a focus, as well as other 'trendy' drugs such as ketamine and MDMA.

Key Stage 4

Extends and develops the material and work done in Key Stage 3. The unit on drugs will fall into a unit titled 'keep safe' that further explores the impact on personal safety as a result of drinking alcohol, binge drinking and taking so called 'legal' highs. 'Party culture' will be examined and how to deal with the stresses and anxieties associated with teenage life in a healthy way, rather than turning to unhealthy options.