



Longbenton HIGH SCHOOL

Drugs Policy

RESPONSIBILITY:	Headteacher
IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Yes
GOVERNING COMMITTEE:	Staffing Sub-Committee
REVIEWED:	January 2015
RATIFIED:	January 2015
WEBSITE:	Yes

For the purpose of this policy, the term drugs and substances includes 'over the counter' medicines, prescribed medication, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other substances which may have harmful effects on the body and mind, as well as illegal drugs.

RATIONALE

- (1) The drugs issue is to be addressed in an open, positive way whereby young people are encouraged to respect themselves and value their health.
- (2) The use of substances is usually a social problem rather than a medical one and strategies need to be employed to modify behaviour, increase self-esteem and find alternative, constructive activities and appropriate responses.
- (3) The paramount responsibility of members of staff is for the safety and well being of the young people in their care.
- (4) The school actively discourages the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, and forbids the illegal supply of these substances.

PURPOSE

Students should be able:-

- * To make informed decisions about their attitudes and the use of drugs in a society where pressure exists.
- * To be aware of the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs, particularly smoking and alcohol.
- * To communicate effectively and confidently with those who administer medication.
- * To have accurate information about substances.
- * To have increased understanding about the implication and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- * To have a wider understanding of related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- * To identify sources of appropriate personal support e.g. school nurse, youth workers, counsellors, etc.

Staff should

- Ensure that students understand all the risks associated with drug taking
- Encourage the disclosure of incidents of drug taking and keep records of drug taking or suspected drug taking
- Outline the actions the school will take in response to any drug taking activities

GUIDELINES

- (1) Regular staff training will be provided to enable the school to have appropriate staff able to:-
 - **know** the basics about drugs and their potential dangers, as well as what to do in an emergency.
 - **recognise** the tell-tale signs, and respond accordingly.
 - **understand** the underlying causes of drug abuse.
 - **communicate** drugs information to students as part of the curriculum.
 - **encourage** students to be aware of the facts, so that they can make informed choices aware of the consequences.
 - **co-ordinate** community agencies e.g. N2L, PROPs, Northumbria Police etc.
 - **advise** parents and students of counselling and other supportive agencies e.g. health professionals and counsellors.
 - **utilise** fully the drugs education resources which are available and feel confident in talking about drugs with students.
- (2) The curriculum responsibilities mainly lie with Science and PSD although other subjects have a role as opportunities present themselves. The main substance subject to abuse in our area is alcohol.
- (3) We shall encourage all members of the school community to be aware of the incidences of drug taking and respond appropriately.
- (4) We shall work in partnership with the home in order to deal effectively with drug taking.
- (5) We shall provide opportunities for peer group mentoring, support and disclosure.

- (6) Although all members of staff should report incidents of drug taking, the incidents should initially be dealt with by one of the pastoral leaders or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- (7) We distinguish clearly between possession and consumption on the one hand and dealing in drugs on the other hand. In cases of possession and consumption, the student will be excluded temporarily, following standard procedures. In cases of dealing in drugs, the student will be permanently excluded following standard procedures. The police will be informed in all circumstances of dealing.
- (8) In our drugs programme, we shall work with partners such as the Youth Issues Officer, Community Beat Officer, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Public Health Nurse, Voluntary Sector Agencies, School Drugs Advisor, N2L and PROPs.
- (9) The school is a complete no-smoking area, with staff and visitors required to set a good example to students by not smoking anywhere in or around the campus.

CONCLUSION

A whole school approach to drugs education will encourage students to make informed choices about the risks involved in drug misuse. By using agreed procedures, we shall aim to deal with drug taking if it occurs.

This policy has been assessed in terms of Equality Impact.