

DRUGS POLICY

Drug Definition

A drug is a substance which on entering the body changes the way the body functions (World Health Organisation). This will include tobacco, alcohol, controlled drugs, medication and solvents.

Drug misuse affects many communities in this country and crosses gender, ethnic and social boundaries.

Young people are influenced by information and images gleaned from a variety of sources. The home, mass media, popular music, mixing with older people who have had experience with drugs are all contributory factors.

The Summerhill School has an important pastoral role to play in the welfare of students and, through the general ethos of the school, will hope to persuade students who need support to come forward.

Drugs misuse can result in extremely serious problems for individuals, families and the community as a whole. All schools have an important role to play in enabling young people to make responsible, healthy and safe decisions.

The Summerhill School drugs policy will address two main issues:-

- Drug education within the curriculum.
- Handling drug related incidents in school.

AIMS

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices about the use of drugs.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible outcomes of drug abuse.
- To widen understanding about health and social issues.
- To minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify the sources of appropriate support that is available.

DELIVERY OF THE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The programme will be delivered:-

- a As part of the Science Curriculum
- b Via Enrichment in Years 7 – 11.

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During Key Stages 3 and 4, students will be encouraged to:-

- recognise personal responsibility for decisions about substances.
- know the basic facts about substances and their effects.
- develop appropriate decision making and assertiveness skills for coping with situations in which substance abuse occurs.
- understand that Britain is a drug using society and recognise the different patterns of use and their effects.
- recognise that individuals are responsible for the choices that they make about drug use.
- be able to communicate effectively with peers, parents and those who administer medication.

PREPARATION FOR STAFF

- All staff are to be aware of the legal requirements. The school drugs policy is in the STIF file.
- CPD opportunities are provided for staff to increase awareness of:- resources, potential issues, teaching methods, appropriate approach and regular updates as research/circumstances dictate.

IN THE CLASSROOM

- any visitors who are involved in the delivery of the programme must be aware of the school drug policy.
- the use of visitors, speakers and outside agencies must complement the school approach to drug education.
- although the teacher's knowledge of individual drugs and their side effects etc. is useful, it is not essential.
- the role of the teacher is to give students the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits to be gained by adopting a healthy life style.
- **the use of shock tactics is not the best way to deliver drug education.**

RESOURCES

Resources must be:-

- carefully monitored to reflect the school's ethos and educational aims.

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- produced to meet the needs of the students and match their maturity.
- differentiated taking into account ability, culture, religion and gender.
- available from outside sources.
- user friendly from the teachers point of view.
- up to date taking into account the different trends in drug abuse.

PARENTS

- Parents are informed via the school prospectus that drug education is part of the curriculum.
- A copy of the drugs education policy should be available for all parents to see.

DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

The position with regard to the law:-

- **Teachers are not under a legal obligation to report all incidents relating to illegal drugs to the police.**
- The Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) will, along with Year Heads, be the first point of contact for drug related incidents. They will work closely with the Head Teacher who will take overall responsibility for such incidents.
- The school will make it clear to students that any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal or recreational drugs on school premises will be treated very seriously. (See also Code of Conduct).

PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED WHEN DRUGS ARE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES OR IN THE POSSESSION OF STUDENTS.

- Telephone the following immediately – Pastoral Office, Head's Office. The Pastoral staff involved should make an accurate record of the incident. Including:-
- Who is involved including names of witnesses
- What substance is involved
- The quantity of the drug involved
- Where the drug was found
- If the drug is for personal use
- If the student shared the drugs with any other student

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The laws relating to medicines and drugs (refer to appendix 1)

Issues of confidentiality

- Staff should never give any guarantees of confidentiality regarding drug issues for circumstances may arise which will make any commitment unrealistic.
- Drug related issues should be handled with sensitivity and any concerns should be passed on via the pastoral system.

Procedures for dealing with young person's loss of consciousness after suspected drug misuse (See appendix 2)

Guidelines for informing parents

- As with the police, there is no legal obligation to inform parents if a child is known to be using drugs.
- There may be legitimate grounds for not informing parents if it is clear that:-
- they may over react and possibly cause serious harm to the student.
- the parents are believed to be directly involved in the situation eg they may be supplying drugs.

Guidelines for referring a student for support and/or counselling

- The normal pastoral procedure should be followed involving the Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral). Agencies that may be used include:-
- The School Counsellor.
- School Health Advisor
- Social Services Department
- The student's own doctor
- Local drug advice and help – Switch

Disciplinary procedures

- The action to be taken against students who are involved in drug related incidents needs to be given serious consideration because of the implications for both the school and the student.
- Permanent exclusion may be necessary in some cases and always where students bring drugs into school to share with others.

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Procedures for dealing with any drugs that are found on the school premises.

Any suspicious substance must be handed to the Pastoral team.

- **If the substance cannot be identified it should be treated as illegal.**
- Parents may be informed by the Pastoral team.
- Staff are not legally obliged to contact the police or hand over the substance that has been found.

There are two courses of action that can legally be taken:-

- Confiscate the substance and label it clearly with all the relevant information
- Pass the substance to Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) to be stored in the school safe. It may be handed to the Police.
- Staff are not obliged to give any names or information to police about how the substance was obtained.

Management of the Drugs Policy

- The Head Teacher is responsible to the Governing Body for the implementation of the Drugs Policy.
- The Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) will be responsible for the implementation of the Drugs Policy within the pastoral care system.
- Staff are responsible for the delivery of the Drugs Policy via the Enrichment programme and National Curriculum Science.
- All staff are responsible for passing on drugs related incidents via the normal pastoral system.
- CPD opportunities will be provided for staff.

Monitoring the Drugs Policy

- Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral), Year Heads, Form Tutors and students will have a role to play in the monitoring of the policy. They will be asked to consider:-
- Suitability of resources – activities – general organisation and sharing of good practice.

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APPENDIX 1

MISUSED DRUGS

A wide range of substances can be abused. Many of these are not illegal. Some of these substances have legitimate uses as household products. Some have medicinal uses. Some are found as tablets or capsules and some in the form of liquids or powders and in some cases even gasses. There are a number of substances that can be found in more than one form. There are many drugs that go by more than one name – the chemical name – the brand name – the street name.

The more common illegal and legal drugs are set out in the grid below. Further information may be obtained from drug/health co-ordinators or the police.

If there is any doubt about any substance advice should be sought from the drug/health co-ordinator or the police.

Classification of drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act of 1971 – it is illegal to possess these drugs unless lawfully prescribed.

CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heroin• Cocaine• Methadone• Ecstasy (MDMA)• LSD• Magic Mushrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amphetamines• Barbiturates• Codeine• Cannabis• Cathinones (including mephedrone)• Synthetic Cannabinoids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benzo diazepines (tranquilisers)• GHB/GBL• Ketamine• Anabolic steroids• Benzylpiperazines (BZP)

Substances which are not illegal but which are commonly used.

Magic mushrooms – Psilocybe or Liberty Cap mushrooms. Only subject to the controls of the Misuse of Drugs Act when “prepared” ie when dried out or made into tea.

“Popper” “Rush” “Liquid Gold”. This is amyl nitrate or butyl nitrate. A liquid sold in small bottles. It is inhaled to produce a rush of blood giving a short feeling of exhilaration. Sold in sex shops.

“Gas” – particularly butane – a propellant in many aerosol cans. Produces disorientation when inhaled. The cold gas hitting the back of the throat can cause choking.

“Glue Sniffing” – less popular than gas – fumes generally inhaled from a plastic bag.

GBH/GHB (Gammahydroxybutrate) – This sedative can be found as a liquid or sometimes as capsules or powder. Taken orally, sold in health shops and by mail order.

Khat “Cat” “Qat” twigs and leaves produce a stimulant effect.

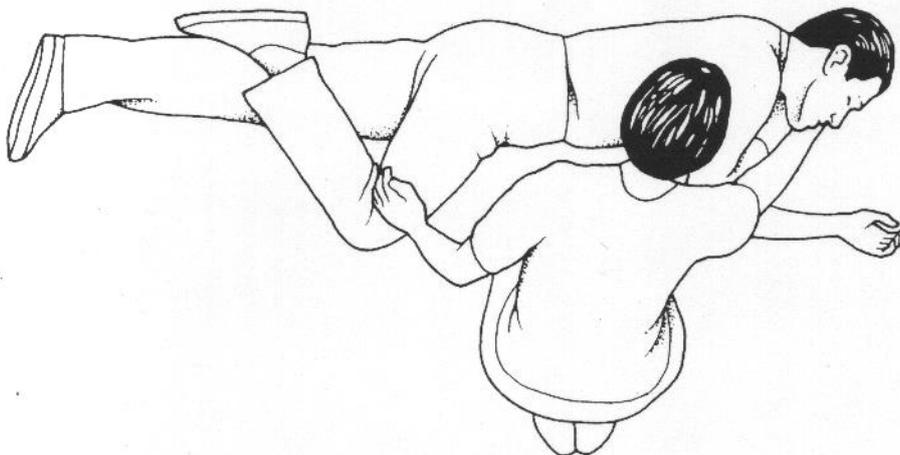
M’Kat – Methadone

Salvia – a ‘festival’ drug. Causes hallucinations. Legal high.

APPENDIX 2

First Aid procedures to be taken if a student has a loss of consciousness due to suspected substance misuse.

- Stay calm – do not panic
- Assist the students breathing by loosening clothing
- Have someone contact the nurse, school office and pastoral office. **Do not leave the student unattended.**
- Check the student's breathing regularly – make sure that airways are kept clear.
- Place the student in the recovery position – see illustration below.
- Collect any evidence of what has been taken eg tablets, syringes, powders etc. If possible keep any vomited material.
- Wait for the ambulance.
- Provide re-assurance if the student regains consciousness.
- Ensure that the correct school procedures have been followed.



APPENDIX 3

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DRUG ABUSE

Warning signs in individuals

- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Stealing from parents
- More time spent away from home
- Changes in attendance and lack of willingness to participate in activities
- Unusual outbreaks of temper
- Lack of appetite
- Lack of interest in appearance
- Heavy use of aftershave or perfume to disguise the smell of drugs
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate time to disguise dilated or constricted pupils.

NB. DO NOT CONFUSE WITH NORMAL SIGNS OF ADOLESCENCE

Warning signs in groups

- Maintaining a distance from other students away from supervision points
- Gathering around the school gates
- Being the subject of rumours about taking drugs
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises
- Stealing which appears to be the work of more than one person
- Use of drug users slang
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances
- Students associated with one person outside their normal peer group.

Objects that may indicate drug abuse

- Foil containers or cup shapes made from silver foil – perhaps discoloured by heat
- Metal tins
- Heat discoloured spoons
- Small bottles, pill boxes
- Straws
- Sugar lumps
- Syringes or needles
- Cigarette lighters
- Spent matches
- Plastic bags or butane gas containers – solvent abuse
- Cardboard or other tubes – heroin
- Shredded cigarettes or home rolled cigarettes – cannabis
- Paper, approximately 50 mm x 50 mm, folded to form an envelope – heroin.

The Summerhill School Non-Smoking Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The policy identifies how The Summerhill School will create a smoke free environment within the school premises for the benefit of students, staff, visitors and carers as well as members of the public. This policy includes e-lites and shisha pens.
- 1.2 To encourage and support the students to stop smoking by providing them with support, guidance and education on smoking related issues.
- 1.3 The Health and Safety at work Act (1974) requires that the school take reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of employees and members of the public visiting the school premises.
- 1.4 Second hand smoke can cause misery to the workplace, leading to increased costs to the school through sick pay, absenteeism, loss of productivity and potential litigation.
- 1.5 Children and young people are more susceptible than adults to the effects of second hand smoking. 17,000 children under the age of five are admitted to hospital every year in the UK. Second hand illnesses including bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma and other respiratory problems.

2 Rationale

- 2.1 The Summerhill School recognises and fully accepts those responsibilities placed upon it by health and safety legislation to provide a working and learning environment where health and safety of the staff, students, parents, carers and members of the public who visit the Summerhill School premises.
- 2.2 The purpose of the policy is to protect and improve health, safety and well-being of all staff, students, parents, carers and members of the public who visit the Summerhill School premises.
- 2.3 The Summerhill School will place particular emphasis on raising awareness amongst students on the impact of smoking and second hand smoke, as part of Enrichment days.
- 2.4 The Summerhill School recognises that smoking is an addiction and aims to provide a supportive environment for those wishing to stop smoking. Students, staff and parents and carers will therefore be able to access stop smoking support/advice and subsidised Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) if appropriate via the School Health Advisor and the Dudley Stop Smoking Service.

3 Students who are found smoking on school grounds:

- 3.1 Any students found smoking on the school premises will be put into break and lunchtime detention for one week. Students will not be allowed to go on Rewards Day.
- 3.2 A letter will be sent home to parents to inform them that their child has been found smoking on the school premises.

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3.3 The student will be referred to seek further advice/support from the School Health Advisor about the effects of smoking and support in stopping.

4 Implementation and enforcement of the Policy:

4.1 With effect from September 2007 complete prohibition on smoking in all parts of the school premises will be applied.

4.2 Smoking will be prohibited in all corridors, toilets, access doorways and surrounding grounds.

4.3 All staff will be responsible for the promotion and maintenance of a smoke free environment.

4.4 A copy of this policy will be included in induction packs for new staff.

5 Policy Review:

5.1 Julie Robinson will ensure that this No-Smoking Policy will be reviewed annually from the date of implementation.