

Marshland High School



Drugs Policy

Approved – May 2018

'Success Through Learning'



Aims

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for students, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and students need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and students are reminded of this policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/ residential etc.

Definition

"Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter, prescribed or recreational drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc.

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is unacceptable. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while students are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for students who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Drug Education

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

- (i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education-
- 11-14 year olds are taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
 - 14-16 year olds are taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions

This continues the drugs related education delivered in Primary schools, as follows:

- Key Stage 1, 5-7 year olds should have been taught about the role of drugs as medicines
- Key Stage 2, 7-11 year olds should have been taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

(ii) PSHEe reflects other discretionary topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills. This will:

- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

Drug education at Marshland High School is a cyclical programme – drugs and drug taking are discussed during years 7, 8 and 9. In Year 7 smoking in particular is discussed, Year 8 covers Alcohol and Drinking and Year 9 other substances. All issues are dealt with at the appropriate level of understanding for the class involved.

At KS4 the Police Community Liaison Officer attends classes and the classification of drugs is discussed in detail, along with the consequences of possession of illegal substances related to drugs.

The emphasis is on attitude and knowledge to enable the young people to make valued choices.

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors will be used in a planned way and be their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LA, police, health and drug agencies.

Statutory duty of the school

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The Head Teacher has general responsibility for handling day to day implementation of the policy and for the appointment of a Deputy Head Teacher/Assistant Head Teacher as drug education/substance coordinator. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold, used or exchanged on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

Implementation of the policy

It should be noted here that, when dealing with drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as laid out in "The Right Responses" document and that all staff, parents/carers and students will be reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply and following discussion with the student and staff, action will proceed as follows:

Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A

- *In cases of substance use/misuse or supply, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken; parents/carers will be informed by the head teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate.*
- *If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the substance coordinator who will inform the Head Teacher, who will ensure that the parents/carers are informed.*
- *While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the Head Teacher in consultation with governors and staff who know the young person well.*
- *The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident as follows:*
 - i Any instances of possession, use or supply of drugs (see definition on page 1) on school premises will be treated with the utmost seriousness.*
 - ii The Head Teacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking into account of such factors such as the age of the student concerned, whether the incident involved one student or a group of students and whether there is evidence of a particular peer group pressure.*
 - iii The fact that certain behaviour could constitute a violation of the criminal law will not, in itself, be taken as automatically leading to the exclusion of a student.*
 - iv In cases where it is clear that a student has supplied illegal or dangerous drugs and the health and safety of other students was directly at risk, the student will be permanently excluded.*
 - *Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix B: all staff, students, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.*
 - *The governing body will be informed of drug-related incidents as they concern other matters relating to the school.*
 - *The Head Teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. Additional support and advice is available from the School Drugs Adviser and LA Communication Officer-Education*

All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

APPENDIX A - see page 5 : Drug situation – medical emergencies
APPENDIX B - see pages 6 & 7 : Situations involving drugs without medical authority

Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and any changes or modifications communicated to all members of staff as necessary.

Appendix A : Drug situations – medical emergencies

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disorientated or who has taken harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency.

The main responsibility is for the student at immediate risk, but you also need to ensure the well-being and safety of others. Put into practice your school’s first-aid procedures. *If in any doubt, call medical help.*

Always:

- assess the situation
- if a medical emergency, send for medical help and ambulance

Before assistance arrives

If the person is conscious:

- ask them what has happened and to identify any drug used
- collect any drug sample and vomit for medical analysis
- **do not** induce vomiting
- **do not** chase or over-excite them if intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance
- keep them under observation, warm and quiet

If the person is unconscious:

- ensure that they can breathe and place in the recovery position
- **do not** move them if a fall is likely to have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- **do not** give them anything by mouth
- **do not** attempt to make them sit or stand
- **do not** leave them unattended or in charge of another student
- notify parents/carers

For needle stick(sharps) injuries:

- encourage wound to bleed. **Do not** suck. Wash with soap and water. Dry and apply waterproof dressing
- if used/dirty needle seek advice from a doctor

When medical help arrives

- pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples

Complete a medical record form as soon as you have dealt with the emergency.

This form is based on Appendix 9 of *Drugs: guidance for schools.*

“Drugs” refers to **all drugs** including **medicines (prescription and “over the counter”), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs**

Appendix B: Responding to incidents involving drugs

