

# **GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL**

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO MISUSE POLICY**

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### **Rationale**

At Guildford County School, we nurture a climate where all students will want to learn. Through the curriculum we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all students at our school to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We do this by reinforcing positive behaviour and providing a caring response to the learning needs of our students. We recognise that although drugs may not always be harmful, all carry potential for harm. Safety and effective management therefore underpin both the school's drug education and its response to any incidents. Medicines (over the counter and prescription) will be treated with the same priority, care and respect as non-medicinal drugs.

### **Purposes**

The school drugs, alcohol and tobacco misuse policy aims to:

- safeguard the health and well-being of all students at all times
- consider all drugs, legal, medicinal and illegal and to respond constructively to the issues raised by their availability and use in society
- outline the aims, content and organisation of the school drugs, alcohol and tobacco education programme
- provide clear guidance to staff about procedures for managing drug-related incidents.

### **Guidelines**

We believe that drugs, alcohol and tobacco education should not be delivered in isolation, but be part of our Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education programmes, supplemented by Science and Religious Education. The broad educational aims of our drugs, alcohol and tobacco education programme (which are progressive as students move through the school) are to:

- increase their knowledge and understanding of drugs, of their use and dangers, and of the law and local and national support agencies
- explore a range of views, clarify attitudes and challenge stereotypes
- develop a range of skills to enable young people to make their own informed decisions about drugs, including assessing and avoiding risks, communicating with others, assertiveness, accessing information and advice, helping others, first aid, and so on

### **Content**

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco education is taught within the context of the requirements of the Science curriculum and also within the context of our Citizenship and Personal and Social and Health education programme which is delivered by tutors. Through our Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education programmes on drug, alcohol and tobacco education, we plan to provide opportunities for students to: take responsibility for themselves and others; feel positive about themselves; participate; make real choices and decisions; meet and work with people; develop positive relationships; consider social and moral dilemmas; and prepare for change.

### **Working with Parents**

The school is committed to working in close partnership with parents and carers who have a role to play in teaching their children about drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Parents/carers are invited to attend consultation evenings to discuss the school's drug, alcohol and tobacco education programme and to view the teaching material and resources that will be used.

## **THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED ISSUES**

**Medicines:** We ensure that students know the school rules that all medicines need to be managed at school by teachers and other school staff, and can only be brought onto school premises with teachers' knowledge and approval. Medicines will always be in the care of the school office or managed by students with staff approval following discussion with parents.

**Legal Drugs:** Students are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters or volatile substances either in school, travelling to and from school or on school trips. Any drugs or other such substances which are found will be confiscated, and returned to parents, who will normally be informed as a matter of course.

If any student is under the influence of a drug or otherwise thought to be in need of medical help, it will be sought at once.

**Tobacco:** Smoking is not allowed on the school premises either within the school building or on school premises. The no smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, for example, parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff and contractors.

**Alcohol:** Alcohol is sometimes permitted on the school premises (with permission from the Head) during social events, for example, cheese and wine evenings. Non-alcoholic drinks will always be available during such events. Students are not permitted to be in possession of alcohol on the school premises at any time.

**Illegal Drugs:** If any student is found in possession of an illegal drug, it will be confiscated and stored until arrangements are made with the local police for its collection. **The school follows the detailed guidance in 'Situations involving drugs without medical authority'**. The School Drugs Co-ordinator will be informed and will take the lead in deciding how to respond further. Parents will be informed. The school considers possession, buying, selling or obtaining, or use of illegal drugs in school, during the school day, or at any time when students are under the jurisdiction of school staff, to be unacceptable.

### **School Visits**

All those involved in school visits, parents, students and staff, are reminded of the school policy on drugs beforehand, and the likely consequences of being involved in a drug related incident on a school trip. A nominated member of staff will take an incident record form on all residential trips.

### **Parents and Carers**

If the school discovers evidence of involvement of students with unauthorised drugs, parents/carers are routinely contacted unless this might compromise the student's safety. The wishes of parents are considered carefully. Parents are encouraged to come to the school and talk to us about any concerns or questions they have. We provide information and consultation evenings as needs arise, to try to ensure that all parents are aware of how we deal with drug issues.

### **Implementing the policy**

Disciplinary action will always be taken if a student is known to have been in possession, supplied or used drugs while on the school premises or under the school's jurisdiction. Such action will normally include a fixed term exclusion from school. Supplying drugs to others for sale while on the school premises or under the school's jurisdiction will normally lead to permanent exclusion.

*This policy was approved by the Personnel & Curriculum Committee in May 2009.*

*It will be reviewed again in three years time.*

*The next review will be in May 2012.*