

EASTHAMPSTEAD PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Policy on Drugs



This policy should be read in light of the School's aims and objectives. Areas of this policy document relate to other school policies including Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities, Child Protection and Behaviour.

STATEMENT

Easthampstead Park Community School will offer a learning climate to all students and the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum intended to promote students' development. It will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of students at the school. It will prepare students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The school will not condone the misuse of drugs or the illegal supply of these substances. The school regards any incident involving drugs very seriously and will deal with it in the interests of the school as a whole, as well as those of the individual(s) involved. Incidents which occur on school journeys and any school related activities will be considered in a similar light to the incidents occurring on the school premises.

AIMS

1. To promote and safeguard the health and safety of the whole school community.
2. To educate young people to grow up safely in a society where drugs are available

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide drug education
2. To emphasise to students, parents and others that any misuse or possession for misuse drugs is not permitted
3. To establish and implement clear guidelines for:
 - * the legal use of drugs within the school
 - * drug related incidents

TERMS

Drugs - This document uses the term to refer to all drugs including volatile (sniffable) substances (eg petrol, nitrites, butane, aerosols), over-the-counter medicines (eg paracetamol, cough medicines), prescription medicines (eg tranquilisers, amphetamines, anabolic steroids), alcohol, tobacco, other legal drugs (eg caffeine) and illegal drugs (eg cannabis, heroin, LSD or ecstasy).

Drugs misuse – Drug misuse is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour and require specific interventions, including treatment.

Drug use – Drug use is drug taking, for example, consuming alcohol, taking medication or using illegal drugs. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, whether through intoxication, breach of the law or of school rules, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately apparent. Drug use will require interventions such as management, education, advice and information, and prevention work to reduce the potential for harm.

LOCATION OF POLICY

A copy of this policy will be held by the Clerk to the Governors, at the drop-in centre and the school office. Copies will also be part of the PHSE/operational handbook.

SCHOOL DRUG COORDINATOR

This responsibility will lie with the Deputy Headteacher in charge of Raising Standards. He/She will have responsibility for:

- the process which forms and reviews the drugs policy.
- implementing monitoring systems.
- ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review.
- coordination and coherence of drug education and the management of drug-related incidents.
- coordinating a planned action to manage medicines in school.

- initiating or coordinating responses to any unplanned situations involving drugs.
- coordinating links with external agencies.
- initiating or coordinating cross-phase liaison with primary schools and other secondary schools.

DRUG EDUCATION

Drug Education will be delivered in accordance with the obligatory elements of the Science National Curriculum, and the PSHE framework, which are relevant. Drug Education will be part of the Health Education programme provided for all students. Health education could be delivered by all staff and where appropriate, staff and visitors with expertise will be used to enhance the programme.

Students will use the existing review and evaluation process in PSHE to feed back their observations. Planning and reviewing of programmes will take into account students' existing knowledge and understanding.

AIMS OF DRUG EDUCATION

- To help students develop, extend and practise the skills they need to cope responsibly within a society where there is a culture of drugs misuse.
- To provide access to reliable, up-to-date, objective and balanced information about drugs, as students need it.
- To give opportunities for pupils to explore a range of attitudes to drugs and to drug users including their own and each other's.
- To emphasise the school's focus upon personal safety and personal health.
- To explore issues, relevant to students, which are raised by the use of drugs in society.
- To foster competence and confidence in pupils' critical thinking and decision-making skills.
- To identify sources of further information and reliable support.

METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCING

Drug education will be delivered didactically and interactively. It will support the notion of enabling students to make informed decisions and provide opportunity for decisions and their consequences to be explored. Resources will be reviewed and updated. Staff will be provided with training and support within the existing structure for Science and PSHE teachers. Staff training will be supported by on the job training when visitors and outside speakers work with students. Appropriate up-to-date materials will be used.

USE OF OUTSIDE SPEAKERS AND VISITORS

In delivering its drug education programme, the school will use others including the school nurse, Learning Through Action, the Drop-In Centre, police and other individuals or organisations with relevant expertise. Their involvement will be reviewed annually. Staff will always be present when outside speakers and visitors are working with students.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS AT SCHOOL

Students will be made aware that all drugs need to be managed at school by the School Welfare Assistants in accordance with DfE/DH 1996 Good Practice Guide, "Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs", DfE Drugs: Guidance for Schools and Bracknell Forest Borough Council's "Medicines in Schools Guidance Notes"

MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS INCIDENTS

It is the role of the Deputy Headteacher in charge of Raising Standards to ascertain the full circumstances surrounding any incident involving drugs, with particular reference to the exact nature of the substances involved, the age and background of the pupils, the amount of substance and the manner in which it was discovered. Medical help will be sought as appropriate. Parents will be informed as soon as possible. Any drugs will be confiscated and dealt with as appropriate. The school will involve parents, police and/or other support agencies as part of its course of action in dealing with drug-related incidents.

In dealing with drug paraphernalia, suspected illegal and unauthorised drugs, the school will follow DfE guidelines as set out in Drugs Guidance for Schools DfE 00001-2012, Sections 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9.

Searches - Consent should be sought before personal property is searched. A second adult witness should be present. Refusal to cooperate could result in police involvement. School property may be searched by staff.

Strategies available to the school in dealing with drug-related incidents are:

- early warning system.
- In-school counselling.

- specialist consultation groups.
- students' assistance programmes.
- counselling referrals.
- case conferences.
- involving and consulting with police.
- involvement of parents/carers.
- behaviour contracts.
- intensive in-school programmes.
- inter-agency education programmes and support.
- fixed term exclusion.
- permanent exclusion.

Staff will be reminded on a regular basis that they are unable to give confidentiality to students. When in receipt of information on drug-related incidents staff are expected to inform the Deputy Headteacher in charge of Raising Standards, the Child Protection team and only discuss the details of an incident with others as agreed with him/her. To support staff in the dealing of any drug incident, a copy of the SCODA procedures will be displayed in the staffroom and be made available to all staff.

Parents are also encouraged to approach the school to discuss issues relating to drug-related incidents. The telephone numbers of appropriate agencies helping with drug problems will be displayed in the offices of the Directors of Learning.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the School's Drug Policy shall be the responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher in charge of Raising Standards and will take place on a regular basis. The Governors' Student Support Committee will review the policy every two years and will involve itself as required in any case conferences relating to drug-related incidents.

Reviewed and Revised: June 2019

Responsibility for Implementation and Review: DHT – Raising Standards
Student Support Committee

Date of Next Review: Summer 2021