



Ravenswood School

Drugs Education Policy

Introduction

This policy has been written to emphasise the importance of the health, safety and well-being of the pupils at Ravenswood School, to inform people about the consequences of misuse of drugs and to describe our response should any drugs related incidents arise at school. It should be considered alongside other school policies such as Curriculum Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Behaviour Management Policy and Medications Policy.

What is an illegal drug?

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, illegal drugs are placed into one of 3 classes - A, B or C. This is broadly based on the harms they cause either to the user or to society when they are misused.

The class into which a drug is placed affects the maximum penalty for an offence involving the drug. For example, Class A drugs attract the most severe penalty as they are considered likely to cause the most serious harm. Drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act are illegal to have, produce, give away or sell.

Class A drugs include: heroin (diamorphine), cocaine (including crack), methadone, ecstasy (MDMA), LSD, and magic mushrooms.

Class B includes: amphetamines, barbiturates, codeine, cannabis, cathinones (including mephedrone) and synthetic cannabinoids.

Class C includes: benzodiazepines (tranquillisers), GHB/GBL, ketamine, anabolic steroids and benzylpiperazines (BZP).

Not all drugs are illegal, but that doesn't mean they aren't harmful. For example, tobacco and alcohol can seriously damage your health. And recently new 'legal highs' have been developed to mimic the effects of illegal drugs like cocaine and ecstasy but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. However, they can still have dangerous side effects.

Some drugs do have a legitimate use, as a medicine, in research or in industry. To use, import or produce these drugs you need to obtain a licence from the Home Office.

Purpose and Aims of Drugs Education

Drugs Education aims to give pupils the appropriate skills, knowledge and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and take responsibility for their own actions. It will raise awareness of the part played by drugs in society and acknowledge the main conflicting messages given by the media, music, entertainment and other sources.

Drugs Education considers an appropriate range of drugs, remembering that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.

We aim to:

- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge of drugs and their effects on the human body, challenging attitudes and developing practising mature assertive skills.
- increase understanding about the personal implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- to identify potential risks that users and potential users face and how these risks may be reduced.
- to enhance personal skills to resist abuse of drugs and county lines exploitation.
- be vigilant and sensitive towards pupils experiencing or likely to experience medical drug treatment
- to develop a wide understanding about related health and social issues e.g. HIV/AIDS and drugs related crime.

Teaching and Guidance

Drugs Education is delivered through planned aspects of our curriculum particularly in Science and PSHE/citizenship. A wide range of teaching approaches are used which will encourage active participation and learning more than formal recording by pupils, for example, story work, role play, drama, exploring media and reading real life stories.

Our Health Care Assistant plays an important part in developing pupils' awareness of the safe use of appropriate drugs as medicines.

Management of any Drug Related Incident

The school will consider each drugs incident on an individual basis and recognises each incident may require a particular response. It will always be the case that the response is planned to serve the best interest of the pupil involved and other members of the school.

As staff we need to remain alert that pupils may have access to cigarettes (including vapes and e-cigarettes), alcohol and drugs and may on occasion bring them into school to show to or share with peers. In the event of this happening the following action will be initiated:

- If a member of staff finds illegal drugs on any pupil, or if they have reason to believe that they are dealing drugs/ being exploited via county lines, they must contact the Headteacher, or member of the Leadership Team who will report the incident to the Police and Social Care. Following multi-agency advice, parents/carers will be informed of the incident to explain the severity of the situation and plan appropriate support. Second offences will always result in fixed term exclusion and a Pastoral Support Programme.
- Ravenswood is a non-smoking site and drinking alcohol only allowed on the site for adults participating in an approved social event. Pupils are not allowed to bring alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or cigarettes to school. If they are found to do so the

items will be removed, their parents/carers informed and the items returned to the appropriate adult.

- Pupils needing professional advice and support around misuse of drugs will be referred to The Substance Advice Service (SAS) delivered through the Youth Offending and Prevention Service.
- It should be noted that drug abuse is an emotive issue which generates interest in the local and national media. The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media.
- Pupils with family members who regularly use drugs will be referred to The Substance Advice Service (if under 18) or We are with you (over 18s).

Resources

PSHCE resources are kept in the resource room and categorized into the areas of the curriculum to which they belong. The resources for drugs, alcohol, smoking and solvent abuse consist of teaching packs, videos, books, worksheets and games with material suitable for appropriate key stages.

Support for under 18s, their families and professionals supporting them:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/children-young-people-families/youth-services/substance-advice-service>

Support for over 18s:

<https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/north-somerset/>

History of document

Previous versions deleted from system.

| New Issue No. | Author/Owner | Date Reviewed | Approved by Governors on | Comments |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | School | May 2013 | 09/05/13 | References to other policies added. |
| 2 | School | April 2015 | Pupil Committee 6/5/15 | Minor changes around Management of any Drug Related Incident |
| 3 | School | May 2016 | Pupil Committee 11/5/16 | |
| 4 | School | April 2017 | 10/5/17 Pupil Committee | |
| 5. | School | April 2018 | 9/5/18 Pupil Committee | |
| 6. | School | May 2019 | Pupil Committee | |

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| 7. | School | May 2020 | 06/05/2020 Pupil Committee | Approved |
| 8. | School | May 2021 | 12.05.2021 Pupil Committee | Updated with current services available in North Somerset |
| 9. | School | May 2022 | Pupil Committee | Updated with explicit reference to County Lines/ drug dealing and vapes/ e-cigarettes. |
| 10. | School | November 23 | Pupil Committee | Update references dates |

References:

- Guidance on Safer Working Practices for Adults with Children and Young Adults in Education Settings. DFE 2023
- Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance. DFE 2023
- Medications Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Health & Safety Policy