

The Orchard School



Drug & Alcohol Policy

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Chair of Governors:

Headteacher :

The Orchard School Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Introduction

The Orchard School does not accept drugs on the premises; these include prescriptive drugs not intended for that person and any from the list below. The exception to this being prescription medication that has been prescribed by a doctor for a specific person and kept in the appropriate place i.e. the medical cabinet in the PSOs room.

The World Health Organisation classes a drug as, “a substance which on entering the body, changes the way that body functions”.

The following list constitutes the model the majority of organisations would follow:

- Any prescribed medication used by someone it is not prescribed to
- Amphetamines
- Alcohol
- Anabolic Steroids
- Cannabis (has many slang names)
- Cocaine/Crack
- Cigarettes/Tobacco (including ecigarettes)
- DMT
- GHB
- Herbal Highs
- LSD (Acid)
- MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Methadone
- Nitrates (Poppers)
- Opiates (Heroin)
- Psilocybin (Magic Mushrooms)
- Solvents (Gas, Glue, Volatile Substances)
- Tranquillizers

As new drugs come on to the market this list needs to be reviewed annually. Not all listed above are illegal. Alcohol and cigarettes are drugs and should be thought of in the same way as illicit drugs for the purpose of drug education.

Aims

- To increase the awareness of pupils
- To increase the knowledge of pupils, changing their attitudes towards drugs through factual and age appropriate information and empowerment
- To ensure consistency of information throughout all schools
- To influence pupil behaviour, for example, extending the age of first use of any drug
- To minimize the number of young people trying drugs
- To minimize the adoption of dangerous drug use practices (i.e. injecting)
- Through education to persuade current users to stop or reduce their drug use, harmful using practices or seek help
- To challenge stereotypes

Good practice in relation to drugs education

- The needs of the pupil should be paramount throughout

- All information should be age, gender, ethnic appropriate
- Information should be updated regularly
- A wide range of teaching methods should be employed
- Staff in their entirety should be well trained and should feel supported in all they do
- Young people may live within situations where drug use is a part of everyday life; this has to be taken into account. A non-judgemental attitude should be employed
- Scope/opportunity for the involvement of all relevant parties in devising the education programme. This to include pupils, parents, governors and all other staff
- Agreement of consistency of information/attitude in school from all staff. Own opinions may need to be forgotten for the greater good
- Involvement of outside organisations for support if needed
- Making pupils aware of support agencies that they can contact confidentially if they feel they want/need to i.e. posters

The parents/carers of children need to be consulted with prior to their children undertaking any form of drug education programme

Drug education can span the whole curriculum and education packages to meet the Key Stage requirements. Opportunities to attend training with regard to drug issues should be made available for parents/carers and governors

Drugs related incidents

If staff have knowledge – either by what has been seen or has been told by a reliable source – that a prohibited activity is taking place, the Headteacher must be informed. There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support or advice.

(Circular 4/95 states that 'Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, the Secretary of State would expect the police to be informed when illegal drugs are found)

When dealing with any drug related incident the following guidelines should be adhered to

If there is an allegation/suspicion of a drug related incident in school

If you hear/are told a pupil is using/in possession of a drug(s) you need to act immediately.

- Inform the Headteacher, if not present the next senior member of staff
- The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. administering first aid and calling the emergency services if deemed necessary.
- If any pupil be found in possession of an unauthorised drug, the substance will be confiscated, in the presence of a witness and put in the Headteacher's office. It is permitted by law for school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from Harm and the offence of possession.
- A record of the incident and all witness statements will be kept by the Headteacher, who will record all the relevant details on a Monitoring/concern form
- The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed and will take a lead role in deciding how to respond further
- Parents/carers will normally be informed
- No member of staff should attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance
- The local police may be contacted for advice or in order to identify and or dispose of the substance if it's not something we can do ourselves, although it is not a legal obligation for the school to do so

- If a pupil is suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person every effort will be made to secure the voluntary production of such drugs. This will be carried out in the presence of a witness. School property such as desks and lockers may be searched
- The range of sanctions used for rule breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions and will depend upon the nature and gravity of the offence.
- Exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in line with DfEs guidance on exclusions.
- If any pupil is thought to be 'under the influence' medical help in the form of a paramedic/ ambulance will be sought at once and first aid will be given if required. This is not an appropriate time to question the pupil. The priority will be the pupil's safety

The following members of staff are qualified First Aiders

- Gavin Walker
 - Mel Rowden
 - Clare Ansley
 - Simon Lovell
 - Jane Paler
 - Gaynor Harvey
 - Natasha Hampshire
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- The decision to exclude a student permanently is recognised as serious one. It will usually be the final step in a process for dealing with disciplinary offences following a wide range of other strategies which have been tried without success
 - However, there may be circumstances where a student will be excluded for a first or 'one off' offence
 - It is important that those permanently excluded from school are given appropriate support and advice
 - The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents in order to act in the best interests of both the pupil and the school

Confidentiality

In managing a drugs related incident regard will be given to issues of confidentiality. Staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. The terms of the School's Child Protection Policy apply.

Parental/carer drug use

Disclosure by pupils and/or observed behaviours by staff of parents/carers under the influence of drugs will be dealt with under the Safeguarding Policy

Staff Issues

Any employee of the School taking illegal drugs on school premises or during school hours or selling or buying such drugs or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol during school hours will be reported to the Local Area Designated Officer and will be suspended on the grounds of potential gross misconduct and would face possible summary dismissal following a Governor disciplinary hearing. Employees are warned that the effects of taking drugs can last for many days after they are taken. An employee may therefore be judged to be under the influence of drugs days after they are taken

RATIFIED
09.18

Smoking

The Orchard School is a smoke free environment in line with Kent Council policy