

White Court School



# Drugs Policy

**Reviewed May 2015**

## Introduction

This policy forms an integral part of our existing health education and personal and social education programmes, and the drug education programme complements this. The policy includes managing drugs and drug-related incidents within school. Staff, The Governing Body, Parents, Health Advisers and pupils have been involved in formulating this policy.

The DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) non-statutory drug advice for schools September 2012 has been used when updating this policy.

### Aims

- To provide the information and support for children to be able to make lifestyle choices.
- To encourage a supportive ethos in which issues can be discussed and questions answered.
- Ensure the safety of staff and pupils when on the school site.
- The policy applies to staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working with the school.

## Definitions

Throughout this policy **drug** refers to all drugs:

- Illegal drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- Psychoactive substances ("legal highs") mimic the effect of illegal drugs
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances
- Prescribed medicines
- Over-the-counter medicines

## Rationale

White Court School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to risks associated with the drug culture that exists.

If we are to prepare our children for living in a 'drug using world' we need to ensure all children in our school receive an appropriate curriculum matched to their age and readiness.

We recognise that many aspects of the curriculum contribute towards enabling young people not only to know how to stay safe from substance misuse, but also have **the high self esteem and interpersonal skills than enable them to stay safe and in control.**

Our school has been revalidated for the National Healthy School Standard in the Summer of 2014 and is now committed to working towards the next level, namely

the Enhanced Healthy School's Award to raise achievement and to support those young people living with the risk factors that increase their vulnerability to future drug misuse.

The raising of every child's self-esteem is a fundamental aim of our school.

### Welfare

Problems with drug use can affect any of our children, from the youngest to the eldest. This can range from:

- ◆ accidental exposure to a substance (medicines) or drug equipment (discarded needles);
- ◆ inappropriate experimental or recreational use of a drug;
- ◆ developing a drug habit (losing control of their drug use);
- ◆ a sudden, catastrophic health problem (sudden illness or collapse);
- ◆ living in drug using families or in circumstances that might make them vulnerable to future drug misuse

A young person's own problem drug use can be:

- ◆ the main cause for concern;
- ◆ a symptom of a deeper more complex difficulty;
- ◆ one of a number of interrelated issues or concerns.

It is rare for problem drug use to be isolated from other pastoral difficulties.

Health needs of pupils

The Medicines policy outlines the procedures for medicine in school.

In all cases our guiding principle will be that: **the welfare of the young person**

#### **Confidentiality**

Whilst every effort should be made to enable constructive dialogue to take place between young people requiring support and school staff, **no staff member can agree to offer complete confidentiality.**

Teachers must be able to honour their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- child protection
- co-operating with a police investigation
- referral to external services

All staff and any expert visitors to the school are subject at all times to child protection procedures.

**and their peers is paramount.**

#### Staff responsibility

Our Personal, Social and Health Education Co-ordinator is – Mrs Gill Pickering  
Our Governor responsible for PSHE and Citizenship is Mr Rob Smith-Jones

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Our named person for drug related incidents is – Mrs Diane Deans  
Our named person for child protection is- Mrs Diane Deans and Mr Russell Pryke  
Our Governor responsible for child protection is Mr Chris McCann

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#### **Smoking**

**Our school operates a No Smoking policy on the school premises.**

#### **The Taught Curriculum**

The aim of our taught curriculum is to support the Essex vision for drugs education;

*In Essex, every learner has the knowledge, problem solving and decision making skills necessary to be able to make informed choices about drug use and that they have the interpersonal skills and high self-esteem required to enable them to enact their decision with the least possible harm to themselves or others.*

Our curriculum will be delivered in the following ways:

- ◆ Through classroom investigation (e.g. draw and write, first thoughts etc.), it will take account of the children's current level of understanding.
- ◆ As part of a spiral programme of personal, social, moral and health education it will build on concepts that the children already know and understand. It will link with work on safety, relationships, communication skills and other related curriculum subjects. Young people will have opportunities to discuss, have challenged and clarify their attitudes and beliefs about drug use.
- ◆ It will use language appropriate to their age, readiness, culture, ethnicity and vulnerability.
- ◆ It will be relevant to the backgrounds, cultures, ethnicity and needs of our young people and will focus on the drug use and surrounding issues most relevant to the young people.
- ◆ It will be a focus on relevant situations and the subsequent emotions that influence choice, thinking skills, especially assertiveness and the language of assertion.
- ◆ It will offer accurate rather than sensationalised information.

- ◆ Whilst fully exploring the possible consequences of drug misuse, it will avoid 'shock/horror' which can serve to glamorise drug use.
- ◆ It will ensure that all children regardless of background and ability can equally access the programmes of work.

Our school will work to inform parents in order to ensure that messages about drug misuse are consistent.

**All visitors to our classrooms will work to the principles outlined in this policy.** A teacher will always be present where external contributors are present.

### **Assessment**

Drug education will be monitored and assessed as part of the overall PSHE programme and the science element in accordance with requirements of The National Curriculum in England 2014.

### **Links to other policies:**

#### Cross Curricular Issues

Reference should be made to the White Court School Curriculum Framework and Delivery Policy, with particular emphasis on cross curricular links between Drugs and PSHE.

#### Equal Opportunities

The school will ensure that all children have equal opportunity to access the curriculum offered, regardless of gender, race, religion, culture or disability, as far as is possible.

#### Special Educational Needs

Teachers will assess individual pupil's needs and set work which will match their capabilities. Where possible, children may receive extra help either to resolve difficulties or to extend existing skills and knowledge.

### **Related policies**

Child Protection

PSHE and Citizenship

Science

Staff Discipline

Behaviour Policy

Medicines Dec 2014

Educational visits Jan 2014

Physical Intervention and Force to Control or Restrain Pupils March 2011

Code of Conduct Policy 2015

Equality Scheme Policy

SEND

Critical Incident Plan

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy

## **Incident Management**

### **Procedures**

#### **If a member of staff becomes aware of a drug-related incident:**

- On the school premises
- On a school trip
- During a residential visit
- On the journey to and from school
- In the proximity of the school

They should immediately inform the Headteacher or one of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

#### **If a pupil is found to be in possession of a drug.**

Staff are required to:

- Isolate the pupil and supervise
- Inform the Head or SLT
- The Head or Deputies to inform the police and parents or carers.

Police contact 101 or 0300 333 4444

Parental involvement in any discussion is crucial except where the incident is considered to be related to child protection.

Staff have a professional duty to investigate and take appropriate action, either individually or by referral if we have reason to believe that any young person is at risk.

When dealing with an incident, in priority order, staff will consider:

- medical support
- immediate safety/welfare support-is the young person 'at risk' from their own behaviour
- pastoral support
- discipline-only if appropriate

#### **If drugs or equipment are discovered on the school premises**

The school, including the grounds, will be regularly checked for signs of drug misuse including discarded drug taking equipment.

Needles /sharps

These will be removed by the identified member of staff using thick leather gloves and placed in a 'sharps box' or (screw top coffee jar) prior to safe disposal.

Staff are required to:

- take possession and store securely;
- inform a senior member of staff as soon as possible;
- the Head/deputies will seek police advice re identification of substance and safe disposal

**Telephone number for safe disposal is: Braintree First Stop 01376 346535**

**If a pupil discloses that their parents or carers misuse drugs  
Staff are required to inform the Head or SLT**

The Child Protection policy should be followed in this instance.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed in three years. It will be monitored for its effect on different racial groups.

**Discussed by Governors at the Curriculum Committee – Summer Term  
2015**

**Adopted by Full Governing Body on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

## Appendix 1

### **Sharps or needle-stick injuries**

- **Immediately encourage the wound to bleed and wash thoroughly with hot soapy water.**
- **Do not suck or allow the child to suck the wound**
- **Dress wound as normal**
- **A senior member of staff will immediately contact the parents or carers**
- **Medical attention should be sought as a matter of urgency because Hepatitis B requires treatment to be started within 24 hours of exposure.**
- **NHS Direct 0845 46 47**

## Appendix 2

### **Useful Organisations**

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of

young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk) Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk) Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk) Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk) Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)  
Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk) Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com/](http://www.drugeducationforum.com/)

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk) Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do

to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org) Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

### **Review**

This policy should be reviewed annually. It will be monitored for its effect on different racial groups with reference to our Racial Equality Statement.

**Discussed by Governors at the Curriculum Committee – Summer Term 2015**

**Adopted by Full Governing Body on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

