



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy is about young people and the management of their behaviour in relation to drugs. The school has zero tolerance with regard to student possession or use of illegal substances whilst on school premises or in the care of the school. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day (including when students are on school visits) or when students are otherwise under the care and authority of the school.

This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Eden Park Academy is aware of the prevalence in today's society of drugs and the risk of our pupils being in contact with drugs and those using or misusing them. We recognise that drugs education is a whole school issue.

It is in recognition of a need for a clear, consistent and balanced approach to drugs education and incident management that this policy has been developed.

Definition of drugs:

For the purposes of this policy the term 'drugs' refers to legal and illegal forms. Legal drugs include alcohol, aerosols/solvents sold over the counter and prescribed drugs (However by virtue of the age of our students, acquisition of these substances over the counter, would be illegal). Illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD are proscribed under legislation. Drugs referred to include both classified drugs and legal highs, for example Mephedrone, M-Cat, Plant food, NPS - New Psychoactive Substances, M-Dat, Eric 3, Dimethocaine, Bath salts.

We acknowledge the ever-changing landscape of 'legal highs' and reserve the right to add to this list as appropriate, recognising that both legal/illegal psychoactive-drugs can be potentially dangerous.

Curriculum Issues:

The aim of drugs education in Eden Park Academy is to:

- Create a positive climate in which teaching and learning take place where pupils feel comfortable to discuss their perceptions of drug use
- To help raise and maintain pupil self-esteem to develop knowledge and understanding of drugs and medicines and how they are used and misused
- To provide a variety of learning experiences encouraging the development of personal skills and the exploration of values and attitudes
- To develop decision making and risk assessment skills
- To enable pupils to recognise positive and negative influences
- To encourage pupils to develop healthy lifestyles
- To make pupils aware of laws relating to the selling, possession and use of drugs



Content:

Drugs education takes place predominantly in PSHE/PSD and Citizenship lessons in which all pupils participate for 1 hour per week. Within this, each year group has some specified drugs education provision usually involving visitors and outside agencies.

Some drugs education is covered in the other curriculum subjects such as P.E. where mention is made of the effects of substances, particularly alcohol and tobacco, on the body. Within the Food Technology curriculum, pupils are also made aware about what constitutes a 'healthy lifestyle'.

Visitors and Outside Agencies:

Visitors and agency professionals are invited into school to contribute to the programme of study within the PSHE/PSD and Citizenship curriculum. Their visits are introduced and followed up in work done with the class teacher, helping to dispel the message that drugs are 'special' and beyond the remit of teachers.

Resources:

Drugs education will be delivered using textbooks, videos, specifically designed materials, games and worksheets. All materials used will be appropriate to the age group using it and it has been considered by members of school staff to be suitable for use in the classroom.

Confidentiality and the classroom:

Whilst it is important that pupils feel comfortable and in a 'safe' environment within the classroom when dealing with drugs issues, they cannot be guaranteed confidentiality if the class teacher is concerned that they are in some way at risk. All issues that arise will be reported to the Head Teacher – Hayley Watson and/or the Senior Management Team.

Substance Related Incidents

All substance-related incidents in school will be taken seriously and each incident will be considered individually based on the particular set of circumstances.

Searching and Confiscation:

Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school is advised to make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action. There is no legal requirement to do this.

General power to confiscate:



Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so. Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

The school will balance sanctions, support and education to ensure the wellbeing of the school community and a range of responses and sanctions may be used including the involvement of outside agencies e.g. the LSCB, Police and support groups such as

Addaction: www.addaction.org.uk

DrugScope: www.drugscope.org.uk or

Frank: 24 Hr Helpline: 0800 776600 www.talktofrank.com

The following is an outline of the punishments that pupils will face:

- If any pupil is suspected of using alcohol or drugs on the school premises they are referred to their Head Teacher Simon D Harrison, who will contact parent, carers and/or police
- If any pupil is discovered to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs on the school premises their parents/carers will be contacted and the pupil will be isolated from their peers until their parent/carer collects them from school.
- If pupils are involved on day visits or residential trips with school and are discovered to be consuming alcohol or drugs, then appropriate sanctions will be enforced.
- Any pupil who brings illegal substances into school may be subject to exclusion.
- Any pupil found supplying illegal substances in to school will be excluded.
- The Governors reserve the right to permanently exclude repeat offenders. (SLT to review)

The school will always consider very carefully the implications of actions taken in response to drug related incidents, seeking to balance the interests of the student involved, the other students and the wider community.

Responses to an initial problem would include referral to the LAC, counselling support and/or support from the Police Liaison Officer.

If despite these strategies the student re-offends a period of fixed term exclusion is appropriate as an effective tool with which to make a powerful point to the child. There is a limit on the fixed term of 45 days (Education Act 1997). Upon re-admission the student will be provided with a Pastoral Support Plan, which will focus upon positive behaviour from the student. It will detail the support available through the school and it will set out clearly the terms on which the student can remain at the school. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been



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taken. The criteria for permanent exclusion being that the student presents a significant risk to the health and safety of other students or has come to the end of a long line of sanctions and has not learned from past mistakes. The supply of controlled substances in the school or within the environs of the school is considered to be a risk to the health and safety of members of the school community. This will always result in permanent exclusion.

Confidentiality and Pastoral Issues

“The essence of a confidential relationship is openness and agreement about what, if anything will happen to information disclosed between the two people. It need not always take the form of a promise of secrecy.” (‘The Right Responses’)

- Pupils should be aware of the boundaries of confidence before any disclosures are made.
- Staff should never offer absolute confidentiality as they may be obliged to share information in cases where they consider a pupil is at risk.
- Whilst there is no legal requirement for staff to disclose information relating to pupil drug use, parents and carers will be contacted and other agencies may be involved where appropriate.
- When considering the involvement of other agencies the implications for all parties will be carefully considered.
- All situations will be accurately documented, including information regarding the school’s response and monitoring of any long-term action taken.

