

Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

Greenside School



Approved by: Governing Board

Date: June 2018

Last reviewed on: June 2018

Next review due by: June 2021

Principles:

█ Greenside School condemns the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school and the illegal supply of these substances.

█ The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Aims:

For the learners

1. To enable learners to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills.
2. To provide accurate information about substances.
3. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse.
4. To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
5. To widen understanding about related health and social issues,
6. To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
7. To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
8. To monitor, as far as possible, pupil involvement in the use of/contact with illegal substances to inform school programmes for prevention.

For the school

1. To have clear procedures for dealing with situations where drugs are discovered on the premises or in the possession of young people and to ensure that such procedures are consistent and clearly understood.
2. To provide appropriate training for staff and to ensure that staff understand procedures and guidelines
 - i. Teachers and staff need to be aware of the main signs and symptoms of drug abuse;
 - ii. Know what the protocol is for identification and raising the issue;
 - iii. Give staff knowledge and understanding to be confident in their detection;
 - iv. Know protocols if they find a quantity of drugs and be able to identify what they have found in order to seek correct procedures
3. To ensure an adequate programme for Personal, Social Education & Health, with appropriate resourcing.

Practice:

1. The school will cover the issues outlined in the pupil aims of this policy through the taught curriculum, mainly through the PSHE programme and Science and Health Education areas. Other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum.
2. The school will encourage specialists from outside to contribute to raising drugs awareness in school, through such agencies as Community Police, Health and Drug Agencies such as T3 as and when such links are possible.
3. The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies.

4. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are adequately trained to recognise symptoms of drugs use or misuse, and to take appropriate action.
5. The school encourages parental involvement in drugs-related issues. The school will inform parents of any instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises.
6. The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take, seeking to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort.
7. The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the medical and social services, taking advice and guidance from the Local Authority as appropriate.

Guidance for Staff:

When a young person discloses substance misuse on the premises, staff will inform the Headteacher and / or DLP as soon as possible.

1. Early detection of drugs misuse is extremely important. If a young person's drug misuse is identified at an early stage, it is easier for action to be taken to prevent his or her further misuse of drugs. Therefore teachers need to be vigilant, particularly when they are in charge of activities which take groups of young people away from the school premises. Research has shown that first experiments with drugs by young people almost always involve a substance provided by a friend.

2. Warning Signs in Individuals

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities.
- Decline in performance in school work.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups.
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause.
- No interest in physical appearance.
- Sores or rashes, especially on the mouth or nose.
- Lack of appetite or the “munchies”.