

West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'



Drug Policy

West Park School

Drug Policy

Introduction

This policy is descriptive of current practice in West Park in both Drugs Education and in the handling of drug related incidents. It is subject to a continuous consultation process with pupils, staff, parents and governors.

It is also recognised that the outcome of developing this policy will have training implications for staff and governors.

Description of Current Practice

Philosophy

West Park School defines the term "Drugs" to mean all substances capable of being misused including alcohol, tobacco, medicines and volatile substances as well as illegal drugs.

West Park School takes the issue of drug use (legal and illegal) seriously and seeks to give quality education on drugs to the pupils, which will enable them to make good decisions concerning drug usage both now and in later life. The school seeks to provide accurate, unbiased information about drugs to its pupils in Science and PSHE Drugs Education. Drugs Education has been shown to be most effective when it takes place in a life skills programme. Therefore the school seeks to provide skills-based sessions and deal with assertiveness, risk taking and decision making. In other parts of the PSHE programme and Citizenship programme staff will be drawing attention to crossover skills and issues which impact on Drugs education.

In addition to this the school seeks to support any pupil who has drug related problems through caring pastoral staff and good working relationships with outside agencies.

Recent research shows that drug use in young people is increasing and that this is not confined to any ethnic group or class. Research also shows that young people who use drugs recreationally do not necessarily come from difficult home backgrounds or have problems, but that young people in such circumstances often take more risks with their drug use than those who have high self esteem. Therefore all aspects of school life ought to contribute to the young people in the school community learning that they have value as an individual human being. It is our aim that in doing this we raise self-esteem and minimise risk in the area of drug use, as in other areas of life.

1. Drug Education

a) PSHE/Citizenship

All year groups receive PSHE lessons during form time each week.

The drug programme has been structured so that there is progression over the five years. The focus on lessons for all years is as follows;

Year 7

- To understand what is meant by drugs and establish a base on the type of drugs they know.
- To understand the pressure put on people to take drugs and how to say no.
- To understand solvents and the dangers associated with solvents – we look at solvents as this is the most common form of drug abuse among young people.
- To understand the risks involved in smoking.

Year 8

- To understand the consequences of alcohol and how they affect you and your body.
- To understand how alcohol can affect family life.
- To understand the different effects of alcohol on the body.

Year 9

- To understand the different types of drugs and risks involved.
- The laws relating to drugs and the risks involved.
- To consider pupil's own attitudes to drug taking in relation to that of others.
- To consider how the media report on the use of drugs in sport.

Year 10

- To understand the addiction and dependence.
- To understand the history of drugs.
- To understand why people take drugs and the different type available.
- To understand how drug use can affect sexual behaviour.
- To understand the Misuse of Drugs Act and concepts such as possession and supplying of drugs.

Year 11

- To understand when drug use can become a problem and the skill to help in drug related situations
- To understand how drug problem affect the community
- To understand how drugs affect people

b) Science

Under the National Curriculum all schools should teach the following:

Key Stage 3: Pupils should learn to:

- recognise personal responsibility for decisions about substance use.
- know the basic facts about substances including their effects and the relevant legislation
- be aware of myths misconceptions, and stereotypes linked with substance use

- develop appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance use occurs

Key Stage 4: Pupils should:

- explore the historical, cultural, political, social and economic factors relating to the production, distribution and use of drugs worldwide
- understand that Britain is a drug-using society and recognise the different patterns of use and their effects
- recognise that individuals are responsible for choices they make about drug abuse
- be able to analyse safe levels of intake

West Park School will meet these requirements.

c) Visitors

PSHE/Citizenship and Science lessons about drugs will usually be delivered by teachers. However the Police may have a role in lessons about Drugs and the law and the School Nurse may have input into lessons about medicines and their proper use. Other agencies may offer input but their policy and agendas need to be discussed before any sessions are delivered and their materials, especially any handouts must be checked before the session. No visitors should be left on their own with groups.

2. Responding to Drug Related Incidents

Boundaries of the School

This policy relates to all buildings and play-areas inside the school boundaries, It also covers behaviour of pupils on their journeys to and from school.

If a pupil has not reached home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day, any drug-related incident after this will be dealt with by the police.

School rules regarding drugs use as outlined below also apply on all school visits and residential activities.

a) Smoking on Site

Please refer to Smoking Policy.

b) Pupils under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs

1. If Pupil is not ill but clearly under the influence of drugs or alcohol the parents/guardians will be contacted and the Pupil taken home.
2. If Pupil is ill normal medicinal procedures would be followed, the named first-aider called and if necessary an ambulance called. Parents/guardians would be contacted immediately.

3. After the events described in 1 and 2 above once the Pupil is recovered parents/guardians would be invited to a meeting with relevant Pastoral staff to draft a personal contract with the Pupil, this would usually be a PEx. A time in the Training Centre would be arranged. If the incident has caused serious disruption in school a permanent exclusion would be considered.
4. If the incident reveals regular drink/drugs use the Pupil and family will be given advice on where to get help. The Child Protection Officer will be involved and may involve Social Services and/or School Nurse. Pastoral staff would take an active role in monitoring the Pupil's behaviour and attendance through the weekly report system.

c) Carrying Alcohol in School

This would be dealt with as in the Smoking policy.

d) Carrying of Illegal Drugs

This would be dealt with in a similar way to the carrying of alcohol or cigarettes but the confiscated drugs would be handed over to the police and the pupil kept with the Headteacher until parents could come to collect them.

It is not the school's policy to summarily permanently exclude a pupil on the first incident of this kind and all circumstances surrounding the event would be thoroughly investigated before permanent exclusion.

e) Dealing in Illegal Drugs

Any pupil dealing or supplying illegal drugs on the school site would be Permanently Excluded and referred to the Police.

Lines of Action

- If a member of staff is suspicious about drug use or possession they should contact the Head.
- If an investigation is needed the Head (or member of the Leadership Group) will inform the Pupil of what is happening and why.
- If the allegations are substantiated the Head (or member of the Leadership Group) would inform the parents.

f) Disclosures of Out of School Drug/Alcohol Abuse

The person the pupil trusted with this information would keep a key role in the follow-up of such disclosures but the relevant Pastoral staff would assist by giving advice and support as in b) 4 above.

3. Drug Paraphernalia on Site

Any drug related paraphernalia found on school site should be disposed of safely taking advice from the Site Manager. All needles should be disposed of in a sharp safe. Police should be informed that people are using the site out of hours for drug taking.

4. Media

Statements about any drug related incidents or drug education this will be given by the Head Teacher alone.

5. Medicines in School

All prescription medicines should be handed in to Mrs Baylis and accompanied by a note on usage and dosage.

6. Staff Issues

Staff should not smoke on the premises

All new staff will be introduced to this policy as part of their induction to working at the school.