

The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth

Achieving Together for a Brighter Future



MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS A STATEMENT OF POLICY

Approved by	CW
Portfolio	Safeguarding
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Managing Drugs

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the Federation's role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole Federation school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up-to-date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents.

Definition:

A drug is any substance which alters the way in which the body functions or affects the way a person feels, thinks and behaves.

"Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc.

The Federation believes that the possession and/or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises at any time, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Our essential aims with regard to the children should be to:

- To encourage positive attitudes towards themselves and others by developing a sense of their own worth and the value of the lives of others.
- To encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into the body.
- To help the children develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes which will enable them to live happy, healthy lives.
- To promote a non-smoking lifestyle amongst young people.
- To give the children the ability, self-esteem and confidence to make informed and responsible choices.
- To enable the children to distinguish between substances which are beneficial and those which are harmful and understand that all substances can be potentially dangerous.

How does Federation manage *authorised* drugs on school premises?

- All medication goes to the School Administrator in the first instance.
- Any medication in school has to have a completed parental consent form.
- Asthma inhalers are kept within the classrooms, older children may be able to administer their own inhaler whilst being supervised.
- A record is kept of medicines given.

How does Federation respond to *unauthorised* drugs use on the premises?

- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response.
- The needs of the child will always come first.
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation.
- Support agencies will be involved if appropriate.
- Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate

What are the procedures for managing incidents?

- All incidents must be reported to the Head Teacher and information shared on a strictly need-to-know basis.

- All illegal drugs will be handed to the Police. Schools cannot dispose of illegal drugs themselves.

Drug Education:

The Federation provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

The National Curriculum Science Order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education-

- Key Stage 1, 5-7 year olds, should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines
- Key Stage 2, 7-11 year olds, should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

Procedures

- Drug Education is part of our whole Federation approach to the health education of each pupil.
- The content and methodology is appropriate to the needs, experiences and maturity of each pupil.
- The Federation seeks to ensure that parents are aware of the drug education programme which is seen as a partnership between home and school.
- Any outside speaker is informed beforehand of the pupils' previous drugs education and there is a mutual agreement as to the purpose of their visit which must be seen to complement the school's approach.
- As a Healthy School, drug education is seen as an integral part of Health Education and is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).
- Drug education is planned and progressive throughout the school, and covers topics such as:
 - Medicines
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
 - Solvents
- Drug education covers education concerning legal and illegal drugs taken socially or used as medicines, whether on prescription or bought "over-the-counter". It also includes solvents, plants and fungi, which can be used for their drug-like effects.

Safeguarding

If the schools suspect that any parent or carer may be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, we will take steps to ensure that safeguarding measures are not compromised and pupils released to their care. See also Health and Safety Policy.

Implementation of the policy:

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with.
- In cases of substance misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken parents/carers will be informed by the head teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate,
- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the head teacher, who will inform the parents/carers
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident
- The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents, as they are with all serious matters relating to the Federation.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with our Anti-Smoking Policy and Administration of Medicines Policy and Child Protection Policy