

DRUGS POLICY, INCLUDING DRUGS EDUCATION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND ANTI-SMOKING

Review Body:	Development & Admissions
Leadership Group Responsibility:	Deputy Headteacher
Type of Policy:	Non-Statutory
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1. DRUGS EDUCATION

Introduction

This policy outlines the aims for the teaching of, and learning about, drugs and their misuse at Rainham Mark Education Trust.

Aims

The programme and policy will reflect the school's overall stated aims and ethos.

- To inform about the use and misuse of drugs.
- To develop coping skills for managing different drug related situations eg, smoking, alcohol and illicit substances.
- To enable students to make informed choices regarding issues related to drugs.
- To cover many elements of citizenship as stated by the national curriculum guidance no5.
- To deliver drugs education in line with the relevant Education Acts and other non-statutory guidance.
- To explore the many issues related to drugs and young people. To encourage moral and spiritual development, respect for self and others, to foster responsible behaviour.
- To reflect equal opportunities, in line with the school's stated policy.

Relevant materials are developed for use by all students regardless of ability.

Guidelines

Drugs education is delivered within a framework which encourages equal respect for:

- All groups in society.
- All religious beliefs and practices.

Students should be helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, respect and dignity. They should show responsibility and sensitivity towards the needs of others. They should be able to recognise the physical, emotional, and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour and to accept that all must behave responsibly in drug-related matters.

Drugs education is delivered at KS3 within the science and PSHE curricula, in line with the requirements of the revised national curriculum programmes introduced in 2014/15. At KS3 in science, it is delivered under the following headings:

- Facts on drugs: alcohol, solvents.
- The physical effects of drugs on the body.

At KS3 in PSHE it is delivered under the following headings:

- What do we mean by drugs?
- Why do people use drugs?
- Drugs and the law.
- Risks?
- What does this mean?

- Drugs debate.
- Religious ideas around drug use.

Drugs education will be part of PSHE for years 10 to 13. Outside agencies will be invited in to work with students in this programme.

Sensitive issues will be discussed in an open and honest way that is relevant both to individuals and to groups of young people and which reflect respect for all groups in society. Resources include: text books, in house programmes, videos, ICT, curriculum guidance and health education materials from outside agencies.

Advice/information is part of the programme. Individually, students are given advice/information when they approach teachers; this is done conscious of the need not to contravene what may be parents' wishes. Confidentiality is usually observed, though teachers may have to make informed judgements about confidentiality and the individual student's needs and overall wellbeing in consultation with the Child Protection Officer. Tutors may be consulted, in confidence, where it is judged appropriate. The school counsellor may also support students on a one-to-one basis.

When a teacher has concerns the Headteacher should be consulted.

Outside professionals are employed by the school to work closely with teachers to plan and deliver drugs education.

The Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) will lead in issues regarding substance use and abuse by students.

Implementation

- Drugs education is taught by trained members of science department staff, form tutors and the personal, social, and health education (PSHE) team, through PSHE programmes of study.
- The approaches within the science faculty and within PSHE are distinct. The latter area places greater emphasis on the social context, whereas the science department takes a more biological approach.
- Within the school, the PSHE co-ordinator, and the person in charge of science KS3 will deliver appropriate INSET. Other agencies will also provide training and support eg, police and health promotion teams.
- For matters relating to inappropriate use of drugs, please read the school's Behaviour Policy, and the second section of this policy. In brief, the school will consider each substance abuse incident individually and recognise 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. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken or because of the seriousness of the incident, for example, an older student passing drugs to younger students and getting money from them by extortion.

2. STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Aims

This section of the policy is to provide guidance on applying the school's behaviour policy to substance abuse or drugs.

The law

There are two main statutes regulating the availability of drugs in the UK.

- The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as amended by the Drugs Act 2005.
- The Medicines Act 1968.

The laws controlling drugs use are complicated. The Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) regulates what are termed controlled drugs. It divides drugs into three classes A, B and C. Class A drugs are treated by the law as the most dangerous and there are a number of offences under the MDA carrying heavy penalties. If in doubt as to the legal status of a particular substance (and these do change), one useful source of clarification is www.drugscope.org.uk.

So far as students at school are concerned, the following are the main tenets of the law.

- The possession, supplying or dealing of classified drugs is a criminal offence, and can result in arrest and conviction. The age of criminal responsibility in England is 10.
- It is an offence for anyone knowingly to sell alcohol to an individual aged under 18. It is also illegal to sell liqueur confectionary to an individual aged under 16.
- It is against the law for someone under 18 to buy alcohol, attempt to buy alcohol or be sold alcohol in any circumstances; the same is true of cigarettes, cigars or tobacco.
- It is against the law to sell solvents, lighter refills and certain glues to someone under 18 if the vendor believes that they may be used as drugs.

BREACHES OF THE SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR POLICY REGARDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DRUGS

We will consider it a breach of the school behaviour policy if a student:

- Attempts to sell or hand over banned substances to other persons.
- Comes into school under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Brings their own drugs or alcohol on to school premises or on a trip or visit.
- Becomes under the influence of drugs or intoxicated during a school trip or visit.
- Presents as in need of treatment for a drugs or alcohol related condition.
- Promotes the purchase or use of banned substances.

Definition of substance abuse

For the purposes of this policy we define 'substance abuse' as the abuse of all or some of mood and performance changing substances, both legal and illegal, including:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Solvents

The school also bans the possession of or use of tobacco, matches, lighters, e-cigarettes and similar devices, and volatile substances either in school, travelling to and from school or on schools trips and visits.

General comments and advice

- Drugs, alcohol or solvent abuse have no place in school.
- We will always listen to students who have queries about the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol or solvents or who are experiencing or who are aware of problems related to such substances, either personally, at home or because he or she has concerns about a friend.
- If a student feels that he or she has a problem related to substance abuse, he or she should seek help from a member of staff.
- We will try to preserve the student's confidentiality, but we cannot guarantee to do this if we feel he or she is at risk.
- If we are concerned that a student has a serious drug, alcohol or solvent abuse-related problem, we may suggest referring him or her to the appropriate outside agency for help.

- Should a student come into school having taken a substance or is suspected of having taken a substance we will deal with him or her kindly but firmly and we will take immediate action.
- If a student appears to be under the influence of drugs and alcohol or have abused solvents and is clearly unwell or are unsafe, we will take medical advice and if necessary send him or her for medical attention elsewhere.
- Should a student behave aggressively or violently under the influence of drugs or alcohol, we have the right to use reasonable restraint or if necessary to call the police. The safety of the students and the safety of other students and staff is our paramount concern.
- If a student behaves badly as a result of being under the influence of drugs, alcohol or solvents, that will not be seen as an excuse. Any such incident will be followed up by actions in accordance with the school's disciplinary policy.
- Students must not bring drugs, alcohol or solvents on to school premises: in the case of drugs, this is a criminal offence.
- If a student deals or supplies drugs, this is an even more serious offence.
- A member of staff has the right to search a student and his or her possessions if he or she is suspected of having brought substances into school, always in the presence of another adult.
- All reasonable steps will be taken to inform parents if a search is to take place. They cannot prevent or unduly delay the search.
- Anything found in a student's possession will be clearly labelled and sealed in his or her presence. It will be handed on to the appropriate person(s).
- Parents will be informed of the outcome of any search and what further action the school will take.
- In the case of drugs, the police will be informed. The law does not require us to divulge a student's name to the police, but it is usually our policy to do so. The police will always take action even if only a small amount of an illegal substance is found.
- If a student is found to have been involved in the purchase, possession or consumption of illegal drugs or substances of abuse he or she may expect as a minimum penalty a period of fixed-term exclusion from the school, and possibly permanent exclusion.
- If a student is found in possession of so-called 'legal high' drugs, we will not inform the police, but will nevertheless treat the matter very seriously and apply school sanctions in exactly the same way as we would for possession of alcohol, solvents etc.
- We will take safeguarding measures if we fear students' safety is under threat.

3. ANTI-SMOKING

Introduction

Legislation demands that the buildings of the school must provide a smoke-free environment and provide adequate signage to acknowledge this fact. Beyond the legal requirements, the governors also acknowledge that smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society. We also accept that passive smoking – breathing other people's tobacco smoke – is also potentially fatal. The governing body, leadership team and staff are united in wanting to provide a happy, supportive community school, which promotes excellence, enabling all members to experience achievement and success within a caring and supportive environment. Thus a key feature of that environment is the major role we play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society. As a school we want all adults within our community to act as role models for our young people and to promote a non-smoking ethos.

Background

The Health Act 2006 set out clear parameters for smoking in public places and the Smoke-Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006, together with the Smoke-Free (Signs) Regulations 2007 as amended in 2012 specify how the Act is applied to school premises and signage in schools among other establishments.

Since July 2007, smoking has been banned in all enclosed and 'substantially enclosed' public places and workplaces. Regulations require employers (including schools) to put up at least one 'no smoking' sign in a prominent position in every smoke-free building. Similarly, vehicles such as school minibuses must display at least one no smoking sign.

Along with compliance to legislation national education policy requires all schools to promote healthy living. Good health education is central to reducing the incidence of smoking.

Objectives and Targets

We encourage the development of independent, creative thinkers and learners within our supportive and enabling ethos and a key factor to success is a healthy lifestyle. Therefore we aim to:

- Encourage staff and students to live healthy lives.
- Ensure a healthy environment for all who visit our site.
- Enable staff and students to work in a clean air environment void of the smell of tobacco smoke.
- Provide students with positive non-smoking role models as the norm.
- Provide support, if requested, on giving up smoking, involving, as appropriate, outside agencies.

Action Plan

The anti-smoking policy applies to all staff, students and visitors to our school, including parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff and contractors.

Reference to smoking within this policy includes, but is not limited to, the use of electronic cigarettes, pipes (including water pipes such as shisha and hooka pipes), cigars and herbal cigarettes.

Students

Students are not allowed to smoke at school or while engaged in any off-site activity connected to the school. Students should not smoke while travelling to or from school.

Staff with welfare/pastoral responsibilities will speak to students who smoke and will discuss with them the health risks of smoking. Should any students not adhere to the no smoking policy letters will be sent to their parents/carers along with work focusing on the dangers of smoking, to be completed at home by the student under the supervision of parents.

Smoking will also be addressed in class as part of the school's PSHE programme. Students will be given access to information and advice in dealing with the dangers of both smoking and passive smoking. The PSHE sessions will also provide opportunities for students to express their views and opinions in a safe environment.

Staff

Staff members are recognised 'role models' and as such are required not to smoke in sight of students. This will include visits, school excursions etc., and include both teaching and support staff. The policy will also apply to employees while exercising direct responsibility for students on off-site activities, e.g., when in the school mini-bus and when supervising school fixtures. All recruitment material for every post at the school draws the attention of all applicants to the school's policy regarding smoking.

The Headteacher is responsible for dealing with reported breaches of the policy by students, staff or visitors to the site and will, in the first instance, remind staff involved of the anti-smoking policy. However, repeated breaches of the policy will lead to the school's disciplinary procedures being invoked.

Visitors

Visitors are advised of our school anti-smoking policy in the following ways:

- Clearly worded signs strategically placed on site.
- Verbal notification by staff members when necessary.
- Letters sent home to parents.
- Persons or organisations making use of any part of the school site are made aware of this policy as part of our lettings agreement.

The Headteacher or deputy will speak with any visitor who has breached the policy and remind them of the policy. Visitors will be asked to leave the premises if they refuse to co-operate.

We acknowledge that despite all our best efforts some staff and students may continue to smoke. We will continue to make provision for anyone requiring help or support or further information about giving up smoking and will co-operate with health-promoting external agencies to achieve our goals.

Monitoring and evaluation

A record of any breaches of this policy will be kept and the policy will be evaluated periodically at the discretion of the Headteacher and governors in light of the findings of the record.