

# Drugs Policy



## Redbridge Community School

<b>Person responsible -</b>	Alex Hoyle (Assistant Headteacher)
<b>Last review date -</b>	October 2021
<b>Next review date -</b>	October 2023

<b>Contents</b>		
1.	Philosophy	Page 3
2.	Substances covered by this policy	Page 3
3.	Legal substances	Page 3
4.	The school's stance on the misuse of substances, illegal drugs, alcohol, substance misuse and prescribed and over the counter drugs	Page 3
5.	Personal searches	Page 4
6.	Sniffer dogs and drug testing	Page 4
7.	Emergencies	Page 4
8.	Class A drugs	Page 5
9.	Monitoring of incidents	Page 5
10.	Managing drug related incidents	Page 5

## **Philosophy**

The school recognises there is an increase in the number of young people who come into contact with lawful and unlawful substances. It responds to this problem by making sure its students are given accurate information, understand the possible consequences of misuse, and acquire the skills to avoid becoming involved with drugs and other substances.

The school is committed to the health and safety of its students and staff will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.

It acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students needing support to come forward.

## **Substances covered by the Policy**

For the purposes of School Policy, the term 'Drug' is used to include:

- Illegal substances
- Substances which are legal but can be misused

## **Legal substances**

- School policy states that alcohol and tobacco are not acceptable for possession and use by students on school premises.
- Legal high by any sort are not permitted in school and will be treated as an unlawful drug.
- Other substances, for example, glue, solvents and over-the-counter medicines, would be acceptable for possession and use on school premises provided this is for their proper intended purpose.
- E cigarettes or other such items.

## **The School's stance on the misuse of substances**

The school will not condone the use of illegal substances, substances known as 'legal high', alcohol or tobacco nor the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter-medicines on school premises, during and out of school time, and whilst students are travelling to and from school.

Named persons for drug related issues:

Mr J Ashley	- Headteacher
Mr A Hoyle	- Assistant Headteacher

## **Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, Substance Misuse and Prescribed and Over-the-Counter Drugs**

The Headteacher should be notified of uncharacteristic behaviour displayed by students that may be related to drug taking.

A description of the behaviour, and the time and date, should be recorded through the referral system. Similarly, rumours should be referred. Where a number of referrals have been logged the student should be confronted, and warned of the seriousness of substance misuse.

Outrageous behaviour should be notified to the Headteacher immediately, or if unavailable, the Deputy Headteacher, or failing that a member of SMT.

### **Personal Searches**

The Headteacher can search for an extended list of items including alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen property.

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other authorised drugs, it is not appropriate for a member of staff to carry out a personal search.

Every effort should be made to persuade the person to hand voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of the second adult witness. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then the police must be called. The police can conduct a personal search if they believe that a crime has taken place, or to prevent harm to themselves or others following an arrest.

### **Sniffer Dogs and Drugs testing**

Headteachers are entitled to use such strategies and they are best placed to make decisions on whether sniffer dogs or other approaches are appropriate. It is important that the Headteacher has at their disposal a full range of actions to deal with drugs in their schools.

Headteachers are entitled, by law, to use drugs testing methods such as urine testing and testing kits that are held by the school.

If a student is found in possession, the situation will be referred to the Headteacher for further investigation and is unlikely to be permanent exclusion but will receive a significant sanction.

If the student is under the influence of drugs parents will be informed immediately and the student will be temporarily excluded from school. They will be advised of support agencies for themselves and their child (eg Social Services Department, Drugs Advisory, No Limits).

If a student is found in possession of drugs with the intent to sell and/ or supply then the police will be called and it is likely the student will be permanently excluded. This includes time in school and time to and from school.

The parents will be requested to bring the student into school at the end of the exclusion period, where a negotiated contract will be made, and further support and guidance offered. They will be warned that the situation will be closely monitored, and further incidents will result in permanent exclusion.

Students found 'dealing' illegal substances during school time including to and from school will be permanently excluded and the Police informed.

### **Emergencies**

Where there is concern over a student's safety, the school will call for an ambulance and inform parents.

## **Class A Drugs**

Where class A drugs, such as heroin or ecstasy have been taken, the Headteacher may decide that permanent exclusion from school is appropriate.

## **Monitoring of Incidents**

The school will monitor and record any suspicions of students who are suspected of being under the influence of drugs in school.

## **The Media**

All enquiries should be referred, without comment, to the Headteacher.

## **Managing Drug Related Incidents**

- **Prescribed and over-the-counter-medicines**

Students may not bring these substances into school unless medically necessary. The substances must be left in the school office, and only taken when supervised by the school's First Aider.

- **Use of tobacco**

The school has a non-smoking policy for all people on-site. Smoking is banned in all public places in England. It recognises that smoking tobacco is offensive to others and can be dangerous to all who inhale the fumes.

Students who are caught smoking will be given a school detention or offered the chance to attend the Quitters 'Smoke Free' drop-in the following Monday. If a student misses this they receive a detention, and their parents informed. Students are reminded of the fact that not only is it illegal to smoke under the age of 16 but it is illegal to purchase cigarettes under 18.

For those students who are persistently caught smoking they will be punished within an escalation scale congruent to the behaviour policy.

Parental support will be sought if further incidents occur.

Persistent cases may be referred to the school nurse, where students will be offered support to enable them to stop. Students should be made aware that smoking related diseases remain the largest preventable cause of death (90,000 a year).

Students should be referred to the school nurse where staff are concerned there is a particular health concern, or where attendance has been affected.

Parents should be informed and support offered. Related behaviour problems will be dealt with according to the school's behaviour policy.

The school will confiscate tobacco and associated items and dispose of the items if not claimed within 5 days.

E cigarettes are not permitted in the school under any circumstances.

- **Parental liaison**

The school aims to work with its parents to support students at risk of substance misuse. Where a student may be thought to be at risk if a parent is informed, outside agency involvement will be sought.

- **Dealing and supplying**

Students who have brought these substances into school, with the intention of dealing or supplying them to other persons, will be permanently excluded from school, and the police notified.

- **Confiscated drugs**

Drugs should be confiscated by the Headteacher, whenever possible. In other circumstances, staff should do this in the presence of a witness.

Drugs should be delivered to the Headteacher without delay, who will secure them and contact the police.

- **Confidentiality**

When dealing with drug related issues, staff cannot keep information confidential, but must refer this to the relevant Head of House.

- **Outside Agency Involvement**

The school may involve recognised agencies to help with the drugs education programme or staff in-service training, so long as these persons hold views that are consistent with the school and county policy e.g. that soft drugs affect the nervous system and therefore affect body functioning, and there is evidence of long term effects such as lung and mouth cancer, damage to foetus, memory loss etc.

Unauthorised agencies, or individuals, will not be requested to take part in in-service training or student education.