

JOHN FERNELEY HIGH SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' 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 covering the use and misuse of drugs.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of a commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole 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. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's discipline policy. The drugs policy should also be read in conjunction with the citizenship scheme of work, the administration of medicines policy and the smoking policy. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/residential experiences etc.

Definition

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

"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 etc.

The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate. These are to be given to the school Nurse Claire Hall who will administer the medicines as necessary.

Drug Education

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum by:

(i) Delivering National Curriculum science -

- 11-14 year olds should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange

(ii) Delivering the citizenship scheme of work. This contains units on drugs education and related topics. These units cover knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills to:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse

- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

(iii) Discussing the John Ferneley Charter. This document provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of rights, responsibility and respect.

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors should be used in a planned way and their contribution should be evaluated. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LEA, police, health and drug agencies.

Statutory duty of the school

The head teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies. The school's two deputy Heads working through their teams will have general responsibility for handling day to day implementation of the policy. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). If it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, the details of those individuals involved and the suspicions will be passed to the police.

Implementation of the policy

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with in line with the First Aid Policy and an ambulance called.
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person, a written record made and the Head informed. Parents/carers will be informed by the head teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate. Local Policing Unit (LPU) 0116 2222222 Healthy School Advisors 01530278125
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the head teacher
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses. Guidelines covering sanctions are included in the disciplinary policy.
- The governing body will be involved in drug education and drug-related incidents as they would be with any other matter concerning the direction of the school
- The head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required.

All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body annually.

Signed: _____
(Chair of Governors)

Date: _____

Signed: _____
(Headteacher)

Date: _____

Updated February 2007