

The Chauncy School

Drugs Education Policy (November 2008)

Date: November 2008
Review Date: November 2009
Staff Responsible: Drug Education Co-ordinator: Mr. S. Walton
Headteacher: Mr. D. O'Sullivan
Governor: Lucy Bailey

The policy is in two halves; the first relates to drug education, the second to dealing with drug related incidents.

In 2006 Parents and pupils were consulted on the issue and their views have been incorporated into the policy. This policy has been accepted by the Governing Body, Head Teacher and Teaching staff.

(1) Drug Education:

The school defines the term "drug" as any substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over the counter and prescribed medicines as well as illegal substances.

All staff share responsibility for education with parents and pupils. We understand the importance of drug education in enabling pupils to make informed choices about their health and well being and must set a good example. The policy applies in and out school and beyond wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. Parents will be informed of pupil's behaviour where appropriate and if there is a risk to the child appropriate action would be taken.

We aim to achieve the following:

- Enable pupils to make informed choices
- Provide accurate information about drugs and the effects of their use
- Ensure that we respond to the changing needs of pupils
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- Enable pupils to identify where help and support can be found

We seek to achieve these aims by/through:

- A co-ordinated and consistent approach to drug education through PHSE sessions and the core curriculum as appropriate
- An appropriate drug education programme
- Recognising the position adults have as role models
- Ensuring that drug education co-ordinator and governor responsible for drugs have received appropriate training and aware of up to date information
- Through the use of appropriate outside agencies, including the School Nurse Team, Youth Connexions, the Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Service Hertfordshire (A-DASH) (Contact A-DASH on 01923 427288 or fax 01923 856672 or text 07770 537227), the Police, Future and Hope, Drug Education Forum register held at www.hertsdef.org.
- Subscribing to models of best practice recommended by the DCFS and the Hertfordshire Drug Education Forum (DEF)
- Reviewing and evaluating drug education with staff, pupils and parents regularly

The Headteacher and the SMT have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are fulfilled including appropriate drug education content and response to drug related incidents.

(2) Response to drug related incidents:

At Chauncy we recognise that illegal substances are available and that some young people may choose to experiment and use them. Young people who take risks with substances often do so because of something else that is happening in their lives; for example bereavement, the breakdown of a relationship, bullying. At Chauncy we will bear these in mind when dealing with drug related incidents, including pupils that appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, while at the same time being guided by the view that all non-medical drugs and misuse of medical drugs are unacceptable in or around the school.

The Headteacher and Drug Education Co-ordinator will be aware of the protocols surrounding the safe disposal of drug paraphernalia and screening for substance related needs. It is important that staff know how to respond when a drug related incident occurs. The response to dealing with illegal drugs has been based on guidance by the DCFS and the Hertfordshire Drug Education Forum and advice provided by the police.

- School identifies student in possession of a controlled drug
- Drug education co-ordinator and Headteacher informed
- Drugs seized at earliest opportunity
- Student taken to designated area
- Parents notified and asked to attend
- Police asked to attend to seize drug, to arrange safe disposal and to advise on the most appropriate response
- Record information in the incident report book
- Parents wherever possible to be present during police attendance arrest and bail (where not possible the school to act as an appropriate adult, but only on school premises)
- Pupils under the influence will not be sent away from school on their own
- Officer records crime and creates a custody record (where considered appropriate)
- Drugs booked into PSOC (where considered appropriate)
- Paperwork forwarded to youth crime reduction officer (where considered appropriate)
- Appropriate action will be sanctioned (see appropriate sanctions below)

In addition the school will seek to deal with the matter from a school perspective. Appropriate sanctions may be used in response to the incident and these may include internal exclusion and fixed term or permanent exclusion from the school. Drug related incidents will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young persons' life and not in isolation. Where appropriate the Common Assessment Framework process will be considered to help assess the needs of the pupil and to help decide who to involve.

Responses to incidents relating to cigarettes and alcohol will be dealt with as follows:

- Cigarettes/alcohol to be taken from student
- Student taken to designated area
- Parents/Carers notified at earliest opportunity (and asked to attend if alcohol)
- Pupils under the influence of alcohol will not be sent away from school on their own
- Appropriate action will be sanctioned (see previous page)

- Where appropriate the Common Assessment Framework process will be considered to help assess the needs of the pupil and to help decide who to involve.

If a student seeks to disclose a drug related incident to a member of staff, they must be made aware that no promise of confidentiality can be made given that there might be risk to the other pupils.

Views of parents and pupils:

- Dealing is more serious than possession or use. These later two carry equal weight in terms of an offence
- Police should be involved where illegal drugs are concerned but not necessarily with regard to cigarettes and alcohol
- Cigarettes and alcohol are drugs too
- Any sanctions applied to drug related incidents should also contain an element of support e.g. counselling, for the student involved