Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy (inc. Volatile Substance Abuse)

Rationale

Millfield Prep School will play its part in helping pupils meet the opportunities and challenges of childhood, adolescence and adult life. Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) will include 'Drug Education'.

We acknowledge that drugs affect all communities and that we have a moral and legal obligation to educate our pupils on the harms and consequences of drug use and abuse.

The school practises the principle of sharing responsibility for the education of its pupils with parents. This is realised by involving and informing parents wherever it is possible.

Aim

To clarify the school's attitude to, and procedures for, dealing with the use of drugs by members of the school community.

Objectives

The school will focus on three principles in teaching:

- To give pupils the facts.
- To emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- To give young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible decisions in life.

We intend to try to reduce the use of drugs by:

- Clarifying sanctions.
- Stressing the need to inform and educate.
- Setting high standards and expectations by staff.

The Roles of the Head and Governing Body

The Head takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Deputy Heads, PSHE co-ordinator, Governing Body, parents and appropriate agencies. The Head will ensure that all staff dealing with substance use and abuse issues are adequately supported and trained.

Sanctions

Permanent Exclusion will, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, be the result of:

- The buying, selling, offering, using or possession of drugs at school or on any trip or holiday organised by the school.
- The Head has a duty in law to inform the police of any offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act. The Governors would encourage the Head to seek advice from the police where there is a suspicion of substance abuse.
Staff

The misuse of any drug is a drug related incident. Staff must inform the Head immediately if any evidence of drug / substance misuse is found on school property or a child is thought to possess such evidence.

The Head will then assess the legal requirements; liaison with outside agencies; contact with parents; health, welfare and safety procedures including the safe handling of suspect substances. The Head should take responsibility for liaison with the media. The school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the Legal Departments to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interest of all parties concerned.

The Governors are determined to do all they can to provide a safe environment for the members of the school.

Drug Education in the National Curriculum

The school, through the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra curricular activities will try to achieve the following aims:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable students to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The taught curriculum is mainly through PSHE, Science and Religious Studies. Reinforcement can occur in other teaching areas.

Drugs Education appears in the National Curriculum in Science and Health Education. At KS1 pupils should learn that household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.

At KS2 pupils should learn which common drugs and substances are legal and illegal and their effects and risks; that pressure to behave in a risky way can come from many sources; how to ask for help and help themselves to resist pressure.

At KS3 pupils should learn the effects of solvents, tobacco alcohol and other drugs on body functions. They should be allowed to develop a range of life skills which will enable them to make informed choices and take responsibility for their own healthy lifestyles.

School Policy on Substance Misuse

Alcohol

Alcohol is easily accessible and socially acceptable in most cultural groups. It is associated with risk taking behaviour and most young people have an awareness of alcohol and “drinking behaviour”. It is a significant factor in deaths of young people and youth binge drinking is a nationwide concern. Information about alcohol is offered as part of an ongoing spiral curriculum in health and citizenship.
If pupils are found with alcohol in school, this will be confiscated and parents/guardians informed. Pupils misusing alcohol in school, coming into school under the influence of alcohol or bringing alcohol into school to give or sell to other pupils are likely to receive a fixed term exclusion. Any arising anti-social behaviour may lead to permanent exclusion.

**Smoking including the use of E-cigarettes and vaping**

The school is designated a “no smoking” area for staff and visitors and we look to everyone to support this policy. If a pupil were to be found smoking/vaping on campus, or were suspected of smoking/vaping, the Head would be informed immediately.

If a pupil did smoke or vape they would be warned about the health risk to themselves and others, parents would be contacted and cigarettes, paraphernalia and matches confiscated.

A range of steps may be taken including gating or fixed term suspension.

**Drugs**

This policy refers to illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD and mephedrone, the abuse of solvents, other substances taken specifically to change mood and/or behaviour (including so called ‘legal highs’ and the use of nitrous oxide) and the inappropriate use of prescribed drugs. Pupils are not permitted to be involved with these drugs in any way whenever Millfield is *in loco parentis*. It may also apply to involvement with drugs outside school for example where the reputation of the school is affected, pupils have supplied drugs or where the Headmistress is satisfied that drug abuse away from school is having an effect on the pupil or others in school. This policy does not apply to prescribed medicines that are used in accordance with medical guidance.

**Volatile Substance Abuse**

The most common are glue or solvent sniffing, which carry a high risk of sudden death. They are often a gateway to illegal drug misuse. The possession of volatile substances is not illegal; it is an offence to supply to a person under 18.

As part of Health and Safety measures, the school will take the steps to control the movement and safe storage of volatile substances on school premises.

Pupils caught with volatile substances on site will have them confiscated; parents contacted and may be referred to other agencies for help. A range of other measures may be taken, including exclusion. Concern that pupils may be misusing volatile substances outside of school will trigger parental contact and referral to other agencies for help.

**Emergency Procedures for suspected misuse of drugs.**

Summon help from the Surgery but do not leave the pupil alone. Make the pupil and the space safe. Check airways are not blocked and place pupil in recovery position.

Keep pupil warm to prevent shock.

After surgery hours phone (9)999 for an ambulance.
Suspected Drugs Use and Testing for Illegal Substances

In the event of suspected drugs use and the requirement to test for illegal substances refer to the Millfield School Policy ‘Testing for Illegal Drugs’.