



New Direction School



Drugs & Substance Misuse Policy

Reviewed Date:	Reviewed By:	List of changes	Next Review
August 2021	Luke Collins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated wording to fit with our organisational structure 	August 2022
16th February 2022	Luke Collins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed by Luke Collins with no changes Made 	January 2023
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1. Aims

At New Direction, we aim to equip our children and staff with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and to equip them with the social skills to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. We are committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all members of our school community.

2. Drug Education in context

At New Direction we have designed our Curriculum to enable each student to develop the knowledge and skills to be successful independent individuals. This includes being able to make the right and informed choices surrounding drugs and substance misuse.

We are committed to the health and safety of our school community and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing. Therefore, a life skills approach to drug prevention is essential. Pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values. This will encourage them to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate this to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

3. The Range of Substances

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- Alcohol and tobacco
- Energy Drinks
- Over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- Volatile substance such as gases and aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

If the Headteacher has reasonable ground to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on the school premises appropriate steps will be taken to inform the relevant bodies in order to avoid any liability as a 'manager or occupier' of premises. If staff have taken possession of a substance for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing an offence; they should under no circumstance, try to analyse or identify it. Staff should wear gloves when handling it, to

avoid possible ingestion through the skin. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place, and the police contacted.

4. Procedures for Handling and Reporting Incidents

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises.
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs.
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs.
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs.

If an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe.
- Send for support.
- Administer first aid if necessary.
- If an illegal drug is found, it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police.
- Report the incident on Cpoms.

Any incident will be reported to the Headteacher who will contact the police. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded on Cpoms.

5. Confidentiality

If a pupil discloses to an adult that he or she is taking drugs, the adult should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the adult can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure and the Headteacher and Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection is to be informed. The matter will be treated as a potential safeguarding matter, and the parents contacted in the first instance.

6. Drugs at School

Where children have medical needs, parents and carers must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents and carers will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. See our Medication policy for more information.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Aerosols, glues (other than PVA) and board-cleaning fluids are used sparingly in school, and must be handled and stored carefully by all members of staff.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school premises or grounds.

7. Drug Incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs. The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious. Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, the police will be notified to determine an appropriate method of disposal. These precautions must be witnessed and recorded by the Headteacher. Staff must not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents or carers; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances. Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, lockers etc.

The Headteacher will notify the police and take advice as to how to proceed further. A full record will be made of any incident and the Headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate follow-up response.

8. The role of Parents and Carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, parents or carers will be informed with an explanation of how the school intends to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of a parent/carer who appears to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol, particularly when they intend to drive the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement, as the focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety.

Where such behaviour repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will report the matter to the Headteacher who will consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and the involvement of Social Services or the police.

9. Monitoring

The Proprietor will monitor the operation of this policy and its procedures

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Proprietor and key staff.