



Drug Policy

This Policy was adopted and approved by
The Sandhill Trust Board on 2nd December 2015

Review Date: November 2017

Signed:

Chair

Introduction

The Sandhill Trust takes seriously its duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing, health and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We are committed to developing pupils' knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around drugs as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe and able to manage risks.

Definition

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave and includes,

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 including magic mushrooms and ketamine)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco including e-cigarettes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled) Khat and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers)
- All over the counter and prescribed medicines.

The purpose of this policy is to:-

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the trust.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interest of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the Trust
- Provide a basis for the evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

The Sandhill Trust's Stance towards drugs

- The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within the boundaries of our academies school sites is unacceptable.
- Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. See supporting pupils with a medical need.
- The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the trust community and in meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

Where and whom the policy applies

This policy applies to: all staff, pupils, parents/careers, volunteers' workers, visitors, governors and partner agencies working within the Trust schools. The policy applies within the boundaries of the

school, to all journeys within school time, residential visits and to all other journeys to the school for the school purpose or away from the school immediately after teaching or school business.

Designated persons with responsibility

The members of the trust who will oversee and co-ordinate drug issues are:

Mrs Judith Hirst, Executive Head Teacher who has responsibility for dealing with drug related incidents and informing the board of directors.

Mr Paul Micklethwaite, Chair of the Board of Directors who has the responsibility of supporting the Executive head teaching in dealing with drug related issues and informing the board alongside the Executive Head Teacher.

Miss Sara Barnet and **Miss Katy Beech** Heads of School have the responsibility to inform the Executive Head Teacher of any drug related issues arising, and in supporting the PSHE co-ordinator in the development of drug education programme, support other staff in the delivery of programmes and identify appropriate training opportunities.

Drug Education

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skill, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions.

Drug Education is an important aspect of the curriculum in the trust schools. It will:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding to clarify misconceptions about:
 - the short- and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - the prevalence and acceptability of drugs use among peers
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help, and advise
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing self-aware and self esteem
- Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drug, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.
- Drug education is delivered through PHSE and Citizenship and National Curriculum Science.
- At Foundation Stage pupils will begin to recognise danger associated with medicines and household substances and seek the support of significant adult for help.
- At Key Stage 1 pupils will learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

- At Key Stage 2 pupils learn about the effects and risk of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs and basic skills to manage risky situations. They learn to make informal choices about health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take responsibility for their actions.
- The needs of pupils will be identified by specific pupil exercises. Discussions will follow with Heads of School, teaching staff, PSA and the school nurse to determine the content of the programme. These discussions will take into account the provision for vulnerable pupils and those with Special Educational Needs, and will ensure that issues of pupil diversity will be addressed. Pupils will be made aware of the aims and intended outcomes of any education programmes they are involved in.
- Extra-curricular activities will take place through involvement from 'Crucial Crew'

Staff support and training

All staff involved in the teaching of drug education will have the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and confidence in addressing drug issues through continuing professional development. The PHSE co-ordinator will attend any relevant CPD courses run by the LA or external agencies and information will be disseminated to staff at staff meetings.

Management of drugs, confiscation and disposal of unauthorised drugs

The following procedures will be employed by the trust to deal with any unauthorised drugs

- **Needles or syringes**
Any needles or syringes found on school premises should be placed in the 'sharps container' kept in the reception. Anyone picking up needle or syringes must wear gloves. Any found drugs or paraphernalia will be kept in a locked cupboard.
BMBC have a rapid response service for collecting such articles.
Office hours 01226 774365
Out of hours 07909930393
- **Alcohol , tobacco and E-cigarettes**
Parents will be informed and given opportunity to collect the alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the child.
- **Illegal drugs**
Any found drugs or paraphernalia will be locked in a cupboard. If the drugs found can be linked to a pupil, the designated safeguarding lead, psa and head of school will be involved and the parent contacted and requested to come into school immediately.

An action plan will be written and monitored by the Safeguarding Lead and Head of School.

If a child is deemed to be at risk of significant harm, social services will be contacted immediately and a decision taken whether or not to involve the police. When a child is

knowingly being used by an adult to buy/sell illegal drugs, the police will be informed. The police will determine their level of involvement.

- **Volatile substance**

Given the level of danger posed by volatile substances, the Trust school will use the BMBC rapid response service to dispose of substances.

- **Medicine**

Disposal of medicine held at school is covered in the Managing Medicines policy. Parent/careers should collect and dispose of unused or date-expired medicines.

- **Personal Searches**

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs, it is not appropriate for a member of staff to carry out personal search; this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort should be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second adult witness.

If 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 a crime has taken place, or to prevent harm to themselves or others following an arrest. Schools are not permitted to detain a person without their consent unless a citizen's arrest is made.

- **Searches of school property**

Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' lockers or desks if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent should always be sought. Individuals should be made aware that if consent is refused the school may proceed with the search. However where consent is refused, the school need to balance the likelihood that an offence has been committed against the risk of infringing the individual's privacy without just cause.

Procedures for managing parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises

Where behaviour of parent and carers under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, the Head of School will consider whether to invoke child protection procedure and involvement of the police.

Pupils whose Parents/Carers or Relatives Use or Misuse drugs

Some pupils will have parent/carers or relatives who take medicines, smoke or drink alcohol. Some may have parent/carers or relatives who use illegal drugs. The Trust will endeavour to be sensitive to the possibility that parents/carers or relatives may be problem drug users. Care will be taken to ensure that the drug education programme takes potential drug use of parents/carers and relatives into account, for example, in issues portrayed and the language used, so that drug education does not stigmatise or heighten pupils' anxiety about their parents/carer/family members welfare. Determining and addressing the additional needs of children of problem drug users is high priority.

When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises, staff will maintain a calm atmosphere. On occasion a teacher may have concern about dismissing a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. In such circumstances the Head of School may wish to discuss with the

parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, e.g asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home or asking if anyone else is available to collect the child. The focus of our staff will always be the welfare of the child as opposed to the modification of the parent/carers behaviour.

Police Involvement

The Trust schools will liaise with the police but wherever possible incidents will be managed internally by the school. However, the police will be informed or consulted when a child is involved or is at risk. Child protection procedures will be implemented (see Safeguarding policy)

The needs of Pupils

The wider pastoral needs of pupils are addressed and any pupils identified with a need are fully involved and aware of the various internal and external support structures available as part of the school's drug education curriculum, via the school nurse.

Confidentiality

The school ensures that sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupil's rights and needs.

Liaison with other school

From time to time it may be appropriate to liaise with other schools in the locality with regards to the local drug situation, management of incidents, training opportunities which may arise and transitions.

Local and National Guidance

This policy has been written using the following guidance documents:

- DFE & ACPO drugs advise for schools 2012
- Drug Strategy 2010

The Policy will be monitored by the Executive Head Teacher, Directors and Heads of School to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.

Reviewed by the Trust:

Signed:

Chair

Review Date: Nov 2017

