

# SURLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## 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 to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our 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 behaviour policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the PSHE policy, medicines policy, health and safety/smoking policy, and discipline/behaviour policy. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of this policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/ residential etc.

**Definition:** "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, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. 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.

**Drug Education:** The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

(i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education-

- Key Stage 1, 5-7 year olds should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines
- Key Stage 2, 7-11 year olds should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

(ii) PSHE reflects other discretionary topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills: this will :

- 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

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 be their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LEA, police, health and drug agencies.

**Statutory duty of the school:** The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of a drug education/substance coordinator who will have general responsibility for handing 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). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

Implementation of the policy: In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows. It should be noted here that, when dealing with drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as laid out in "The Right Responses" document and that all staff, parents/carers and pupils will be reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A
- 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 and a written record taken (see Appendix C); parents/carers will be informed by the head teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate, e.g. *T<sup>2</sup> support workers etc*
- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the substance coordinator who will inform the head teacher, who will inform the parents/carers
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the head teacher in consultation with governors and staff who know the young person well

- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix B: all staff, pupils, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.
- The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. Additional support and advice is available from the School Drugs Adviser and LEA Communication Officer-Education

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

APPENDIX A : Drug situation – medical emergencies

APPENDIX B : Situations involving drugs without medical authority

APPENDIX C : Record of drug-related situation (a specimen record sheet)

Policy written: 21.10.04

Policy reviewed: 5.12.05

Date of next Planned Review: 21.10.06