

Drug Related Education and Incidents Policy

From Staff Policies

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Purpose and Principles

This policy aims to set out the Priory School's approach to teaching and learning about drugs and the management of situations involving drugs. National guidance (DfES/92/2004) and the local Drug and Alcohol Education Guidance have informed the policy.

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions.

Priory school operates a smoke free site and takes the matter of substance misuse very seriously as part of our Healthy School programme. Our school will play a full part in contributing to efforts across our community to reduce substance misuse. To this end, we are committed to working with our parents and will ensure parents are informed about their children's drug education

Drug education curriculum

Drug education within the school is mainly delivered as part of the statutory RSHE element of the Life Skills and Critical Thinking curriculum. It also forms part of the statutory science curriculum.

Students are taught the facts and risks associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use. At key stages 3 and 4 this extends to the facts, laws, risks and consequences associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use and the dangers of drugs that are prescribed, but still present serious health risks.

Alongside the statutory requirements, teaching about how to manage social influence, pressure and risk is vital in promoting pupils' ability to navigate the situations in which they may encounter substances. It also contributes to safeguarding, by providing pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attributes, skills and strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Teaching about drugs and alcohol is integrated within a planned Life Skills / Critical Thinking curriculum, where it is enhanced and enhanced by – teaching in other topic areas. For example, lessons on mental health and emotional wellbeing include teaching healthy coping mechanisms and the importance of seeking support and help, which feed into lessons on alcohol and other drugs and vice versa.

Policy Details

Legal Status

Non Statutory

Adopted

May 2006

Version Date

June 2021

Last Review

July 2021

Next Review

July 2024

Responsible SMT

SH

The organisation of the drug education curriculum

The Life Skills / Critical Thinking Coordinator's role includes planning the drug education curriculum, monitoring its delivery and coordinating assessment. At Priory school we deliver Life Skills and Critical Thinking through discrete, planned lessons taught by specialist teachers.

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used in Life Skills and Critical Thinking together with carefully selected teaching materials. There is a place for didactic teaching, together with active learning approaches, such as role-play, small group work and problem solving, which more effectively engage students in the learning process. Ground rules are used in Life Skills and Critical Thinking to establish a safe, secure and supportive learning environment, which emphasises the promotion of relevant personal skills. Students are shown respect for personal privacy and time is taken to explain the implications of personal disclosures. The teaching and learning approaches also include a variety of methods and strategies that cater for the range of attainment levels of our students and their diverse needs.

We also welcome the involvement of visitors from external agencies to complement the delivery of drug education. Our police liaison, for example, is involved at different stages of the programme.

The Life Skills Coordinator monitors the Life Skills and Critical Thinking curriculum. This includes sampling students' work and monitoring and adapting curriculum plans in response to assessment outcomes, student feedback and local and national data.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to students. Teachers cannot and should not promise any confidentiality. If a student discloses information which is sensitive and which the student asks not to be passed on, the request will be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfill their professional responsibilities in relation to: child protection, cooperation with a police investigation or referral to an external service.

It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a student's safety is under threat. In such circumstances the member of staff will inform the nominated child protection officer of concerns. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a student, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home. Where there is disclosure of illegal substance use by a student, parents will be informed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

Drug related situations

A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs.

We do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on premises will be disposed of appropriately.

The following will guide staff's response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse:

- initial response and investigation;
- **inform senior colleague** – who will guide investigation, ensure written record is made and decide about any disposal;
- consider responses, including whether to contact police – including possible disposal and further searching;
- contact parents;
- consider contacting chair of governors, LEA and other support services;

- consider sanctions / support needs of student(s) involved;
- draw up and implement action plan.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents, other 'legal highs' or illegal substances found on students will be confiscated. If necessary a student will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent.

Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a student is discovered with tobacco, alcohol, solvents, other 'legal highs' or illegal drugs, then a fixed period exclusion will be a consideration. More serious disciplinary consequences will be considered, together with support needs and child protection, dependent upon individual circumstances. Students discovered supplying illegal substances can expect to be permanently excluded from the school. The Under 19's Substance Misuse Team will automatically be notified of any exclusions relating to substance misuse.

The school has the powers, with police assistance if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of students during the journey to and from school is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a student due to parent intoxication then discussion will be held with the adult and consideration given to moving the student to a safer environment and / or alternative means of travel home.

Health & Safety and Medicines

The safety of the individual and of all others on the school site are the most important concern if a student, visitor or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of any drug or substance which adversely affects their judgement. Responding consistently within our stated Health and Safety procedures, including, where necessary, the administration of first aid, is the priority.

Should any drug related paraphernalia be discovered on the school site, most will be handled within existing health & safety procedures using safety equipment such as disposable gloves, and will be bagged up and disposed of in the rubbish. A written record will be kept of suspicious paraphernalia. Students will be advised to not touch suspect items, such as discarded injecting equipment, but report the matter to a member of staff. The member of staff will ensure safety is maintained, until appropriate disposal of the item(s) is undertaken.

Solvents or hazardous chemicals legitimately used carefully by school staff or students and are stored securely and managed in a way to prevent inappropriate access or use.

The approach to access and administration of medicines is set out in the school's procedure for dealing with prescribed medicines.

Emergency aid

Summoning medical help such as the qualified first aider, or an ambulance is crucial, but in the interim period emergency aid should be applied as follows:

- move the young person as little as possible;
- put into the recovery position;
- ensure the mouth is open and unobstructed;
- keep them warm and quiet;
- monitor breathing, start artificial respiration if breathing stops or become shallow;
- apply chest compression if there is no heart beat.

If staff have any suspicions that a student is intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance, care should be taken to not chase or overexcite the student. Strenuous activity for volatile substance misusers can increase the risk of sudden death. The student should be kept calm until the effects have worn off.

Educational visits/social events

During educational visits

- staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits;
- adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place;
- a nominated member of staff will be responsible for the safe storage of any students' medicines and supervise their administration;
- students will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

School social events

- at all social events organised by the school the responsibility for the conduct of the students present remains with the parent/carer;
- at such events the school 'No Smoking Policy' will be enforced;
- Priory School will not condone the use of any illegal substance by any individual during social activities connected with the school;
- adults at designated school functions, subject to compliance with licensing law and within reasonable limits, may consume alcohol.

Staff matters including training

All staff are expected to work within the agreed policy and their own professional and employment terms and conditions.

Training will be available to all staff on: basic awareness of drugs (including alcohol), emergency procedures, procedures in the event of an incident, confidentiality and disclosure, and awareness of the drug education teaching programme within Life Skills and its consistency with the school's values. In addition, the specific professional development needs of teachers delivering aspects of drug education within Life Skills will be incorporated into individual and team professional development plans.

Support Agencies

Local:

Prior to referral please contact U19 Substance Misuse Duty Service for advice:

Monday - Friday Consultation 8:30 to 17:30 Tel:01323 464404

E-Mail:Under19sSMSDuty@eastsussex.gov.uk

- Under 19's Substance Misuse Team

Central Office, House 2 Lansdowne Children's Centre Hawks Road Hailsham BN27 1NP

Contact: Karl Stanford (Substance Misuse Worker) – Mobile: 07738456330

National:

- Talk To Frank - 0800 776600 www.talktofrank.com
- Drinkline – 0800 9178282 www.alcoholconcern.org.uk,
- Drugscope – 020 7928 1211

Waterbridge House, 32 - 36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE. DrugScope is a UK charity that conducts research in the drugs field and provides drugs information to professionals and the public.
www.drugscope.org.uk

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Governing Body will evaluate the impact of this policy yearly by receiving data from the head teacher analysed by year group, gender and ethnicity on the number and nature of drug-related incidents and the outcomes of any disciplinary proceedings.

Appendix 1

Drug and Alcohol Education policy – Summary for parents

Aims and Objectives of Drug Education Policy Priory School operates a smoke free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously as part of our Healthy School programme. We are aware of the increasing problem of drug misuse throughout the country and within our community. Our school will play a full part in contributing to efforts across our community to reduce drug misuse. To this end, we are committed to working with our parents and will ensure parents are informed about their children's drug education.

The Drug Education Curriculum Drug education within the school is mainly delivered as part of the Life Skills programme. It also forms part of the statutory science curriculum.

The goal of drug and alcohol education is for students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

Child Protection and Confidentiality Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to students. Teachers cannot and should not promise any confidentiality. It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a student's safety is under threat. In such circumstances the member of staff will inform the nominated child protection officer, of concerns. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a student, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home. Where there is disclosure of illegal substance use by a student, parents will be informed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

Responding to Drug Related Situations We do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on premises will be disposed of appropriately.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents or 'legal highs' or illegal substances found on students will be confiscated. If necessary a student will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent.

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The school has the powers, with police assistance if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of students during the journey to and from college is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a student due to parent intoxication then discussion will be held with the adult and consideration given to moving the student to a safer environment and / or alternative means of travel home.

Health and Safety and Medicines The safety of the individual and of all others on the school site are the most important concern if a student, visitor or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of any drug or substance which adversely affects their judgement. Responding consistently within our stated Health and Safety procedures, including, where necessary, the administration of first aid, is the priority.

The approach to access and administration of medicines is set out in the school's Medicines Policy.

Educational Visits/Social Events The school's drug education policy applies during visits and school social events.

The full drug related education and incidents policy is available on request.

Related Documents & Location

- Drugs misuse in school 2020
- Banned Items List 2020

- This page was last modified on 20 July 2021, at 10:53.

Related Procedures

Student

- Administration of Medicine Procedure at Priory School July 2021

Related Policies

Student

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy

Related Policies

Staff

- Drugs and Alcohol at Work Policy