



Drug Prevention Policy Statement Substance Use and Misuse

Approved by: Pupil Wellbeing Committee

Signed: Mrs K Gillespie

Date: 14th November 2023

Review Date: November 2024

(Reviewed annually)

This policy extends past school to Post16 and will be reviewed in line with changing curriculum and current needs of the pupils.

Where in the policy it says Stone Hill School, we are referring to Stone Hill School and Post16.

Rationale

Our School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Our School believes it has a duty to educate and inform young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse including the use of legal highs.

Our School condones neither the misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, nor the illegal supply of these substances which also includes all categories of NPS (Novel Psychoactive Substances). NPS can be categorised as having psychoactive effects on the brain: depressants, stimulants, cannabinoids and hallucinogens.

This policy document identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum and takes account of the guidance from the DfE Drug Advice for Schools 2012: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

Drug education within the school takes into account the varying needs of all our pupils, irrespective of age, ability, gender or culture, and is part of the Health & Wellbeing curriculum (RSHE & PSHE).

The curriculum aims to:

- Enable pupils to make positive, healthy, informed choices
- Develop an understanding of the possible effect, risks and consequences of legal and illegal drug use
- Allow young people to explore their attitudes and develop an understanding of the attitudes of others
- Make pupils aware of the law relating to the misuse of drugs and understand the penalties in dealing in/or possessing drugs and other illegal substances
- Ensure that safeguarding procedures and support are in place for all pupils.

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of the dangers of legal and illegal drugs and substance misuse
- To provide opportunities to develop individual responsibility and responsibility towards others, equipping pupils with the skills and confidence to make positive and informed choices
- To teach all pupils ways of identifying the appropriate support agencies and to encourage pupils who may be misusing drugs to seek the help they require (harm reduction).

Monitoring and Evaluation

As stated throughout the curriculum, constant review and revision is essential to ensure all pupils gain maximum benefit from the teaching. Group records must be maintained by the teacher in order that she/he is aware of any pupil who has missed any part of the curriculum of study.

At the end of each unit of work in Key Stage 3 and 4 appropriate assessments ascertain the level of the pupils' knowledge and understanding. Assessments may also be carried out through the use of questionnaires and structured discussions.

Drugs in School

Stone Hill School is a drug free zone, and therefore we have a zero tolerance to any illegal substance on site. Any incident will be dealt with according to current guidance.

Staff Training

Any teacher involved in the teaching of Health & Wellbeing should feel comfortable and be able to deliver the programme with confidence and sensitivity whilst having a constant awareness of the feelings and anxieties of the young people with whom they are involved.

Training courses either within school or externally will be made available to all staff involved in the delivery of the programme, to increase their knowledge and awareness and keep up to date with new initiatives and legal requirements.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

We recognise that drug related incidents in school are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur.

The term drug related incidents refers to incidents involving both legal and illegal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances, and legal highs. This includes:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- Pupil/Staff member is found in possession of drugs
- Pupil/Staff member is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- Pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs

In all cases the Headteacher and safeguarding leads should be informed immediately.

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

Pupil Discipline and Support

The Headteacher will be responsible for deciding how to support a pupil following any drug related incidents and all factors influencing the incident will be taken into account.

All incidents will be recorded.

Confiscating an illegal drug and its disposal

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession. If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the pupil refuses, the Headteacher may decide to contact parents/carers and/or the Police. We will always inform parents if the police are to be called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our pupils, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents/carers are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously overreact and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies in order to safeguard. If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal and will either be destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible. We will always ensure that a witness is present when disposing of any drug. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues. We will then keep a record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.

When dealing with any drug related incident in school we will endeavour to ensure that the young person receives the appropriate support through the curriculum, pastoral system, mentoring programme or through referral to external agencies.

In managing drugs incidents, attention needs to be paid to confidentiality. Staff cannot promise total confidentiality and this should be stated to pupils.

Attention must be paid to the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external agencies.

There are legitimate reasons why some drugs need to be on school premises, for pupils requiring medication. The management of these is laid down in the policy relating to medications in school.

School Visits

During school visits/residentials, all staff and pupils must adhere to the policy laid down at the venue regarding smoking (including the use of e-cigarette/vaping type devices). Staff who smoke must ensure they are not in charge of pupils whilst having a cigarette break and that no pupil can see them.

Alcohol must not be consumed by any staff at any time on out of school visits.

Stone Hill School is a smoke free zone, no member of the school and wider community is allowed to smoke on the premises (including the grounds and car park. Refer to the Smoke Free School Policy).