

DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Date of last review: April 2010

We are all aware of the growing problems in society regarding the availability of and use and misuse of drugs, specifically amongst the teenage population. We intend to keep Light Hall School a drug & substance free environment to make the safety and welfare of all the students in the school our priority.

Rationale

- Drugs referred to in this policy include alcohol, illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis) prescribed medicines, tobacco & volatile substances
- Drug related incidents include the use on or outside school premises, possession, supplying or selling of drugs, and intoxication
- The programme will support an open and active discussion of drug issues
- The school condemns the use and misuse of illegal drugs. Students who disregard this school rule will be severely dealt with
- The policy will be constructed following consultation with governors, police, health & care related staff, parents and staff

The school provides a planned drugs education curriculum as part of Personal Social Development (PSD), Science and Life and Morality, which reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes, and personal and social skills.

Drugs education will:

- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes, and developing and practising skills.
- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles.
- Provide accurate information about substances.
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing, or likely to experience, substance use.
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime, HIV and AIDS.
- Seek to inform students of the risks that users and potential users face.
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- Enable all members of the community to have access to training. The school will aim to provide an information evening for parents, governors and students through support and liaison with the appropriate support agencies.

Procedures

- The Director of Pastoral Care is the schools Drugs Co-ordinator
- The majority of drugs education will be delivered within PSD, Science, LM
- Legal and illegal drugs, alcohol and smoking will also be covered within the science national curriculum.
- English, drama and LM. will also cover aspects concerning drugs
- The school will work closely with outside agencies to help deliver and support the drugs education programme
- Guidance on dealing with drug related incidents is attached
- Procedures for dealing with suspected illegal drugs related incidents will follow the recommendations of the West Midlands Police. (details can be found in the hard copy held by Director of Pastoral Care)
- Suspected cases of an illegal substance related incident must be referred to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. In such cases the police, parents and Chair of Governors may be informed.
- The school will deal with drug-related issues with objectivity. Support and counselling will be provided where possible.
- Students caught dealing with illegal drugs in school will be recommended for permanent exclusion
- Staff must not promise confidentiality to pupils
- A record will be kept of all substance related incidents
- Incidents of students smoking will be referred to the Deputy Headteacher
- Staff must not attempt to dispose of illegal drugs or drug equipment without referral to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and at all times must follow Health & Safety regulations.
- Staff training and development will occur to support this policy.

Monitoring

- Heads of Year will periodically audit the coverage of drug-related matters across the curriculum to ensure that coverage is appropriate and co-ordinated.
- The schools programme of self-evaluation will monitor the delivery of this programme
- The Head of Pastoral Care will monitor the records of drug related incidents.

Review

- Annually, by the Heads of Year, school nurse, leadership team, and the governors