

The British School Drugs Education Policy 2025

The British School

Working together for our children's future



Approved by:

Abel Roche

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Policy statement

Our responsibility as a school is for the safety, health and wellbeing of the pupils in our care. The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and in meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils. The Head teacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy supported by the CPSHE coordinator and Governors.

Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the school boundaries, within school premises and any situation where children are under supervision of staff.

This policy applies to children and all adults who come on to the school site who are within school premises and any situation where children are under supervision of staff, such as swimming, school trips etc.

Introduction

Research has shown that by the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience.

Research has shown that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The research suggests that the first age of experimentation is decreasing and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both illegal and legal drugs. The 1995 white paper "Tackling Drugs Together" stated that schools had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

Definitions

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term "drugs" is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs: all illegal drugs (illegal drugs are those covered by the misuse of drugs act), all legal drugs, including: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (a gas or a vapour which can be inhaled), all over the counter and prescription medicines.

Drug related incidents include:

- the observation of a pupil demonstrating through actions or play an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age;
- a pupil/carer, member of staff thought to be under the influence of drugs;
- a member of staff having information that the illegitimate sale of drugs is occurring in the local area;
- drugs or drug paraphernalia discovered on the school site

Drugs Education

At The British School we believe that drugs education should provide:

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to other adults besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible

- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in a challenging and safe atmosphere where they feel secure enough to play a full and active part

The British School aims to provide a consistent approach throughout the school and encourages children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. We will encourage our children to develop positive attitudes and values and ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed when dealing with incidents/equipment related to drugs and drug use.

Objectives:

- To develop children's personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills.
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- To encourage children to value themselves and others.
- To encourage children to help and support others.
- To encourage children to work cooperatively in active learning and group work.
- To clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false knowledge and beliefs.
- To help children deal with the effect of media coverage of issues relating to drugs.
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drug use.
- To ensure all staff are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use at The British School.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self-esteem.

Responsibilities:

The Headteacher:

The Headteacher (or designated senior member of staff) has overall responsibility for the management of drugs related incidents. The Headteacher will liaise with other local schools (secondary and primary) regarding the local drug situation, the content of drug

education, the management of incidents, training opportunities and transitions between schools.

The Role of the Governors:

The Headteacher will ensure that the governors are made aware of the content of the drugs policy. Governors will monitor the drugs education programme through the Education & Pupils committee. Where possible a governor should be invited to be present when drugs related issues are being dealt with.

The Role of parents:

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school's drugs education policy and practice
- Invite parents to view materials used to teach drugs education in school
- Will post relevant and helpful advice on the school's website so that parents can support the key messages being given to children at school
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school

Resources:

Drugs education is part of the planned CPSHE curriculum and is also delivered through teaching science. The CPSHE framework (SCARFE) outlines the areas to be covered each year.

Cross-curricular links:

Drug education has many cross-curricular links with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for citizenship, personal, social and health education (CPSHE). There are links to other subjects such as physical education and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Teaching:

Our approach to drugs education is one where children are given information in the belief that increased knowledge about drugs and the risks will empower them to make informed and safe decisions. We approach this subject in a sensitive manner which is appropriate to the age and experiences of the children concerned. Teaching is:

- Well resourced
- Reflects the needs and experiences of pupils
- Uses a range of teaching methods including group work, discussions, film clips and outside speakers
- Reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles
- Flexible and relevant
- In the context of the requirements of SCARFE
- Interesting and stimulating
- Informed

Staff support and Training:

Staff will be made aware of the first steps to be taken in managing drug incidents and in identifying and responding to pupils' needs.

The Head teacher will ensure that the governors are made aware of the content of the drugs policy and Governors will monitor the drugs education programme. Where possible a governor should be invited to be present when drugs related issues are being dealt with.

Outside Visitors:

If outside visitors are used in any aspect of the drugs education programme, their contribution will be properly planned. They will be expected to support the work of the teacher who will meet with them beforehand to discuss the content and approach. Teachers will be present and involved in all sessions. The teacher has overall responsibility for the session and the work planned.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Teaching and learning is monitored by the Headteacher and subject leader for CPSHE.

Managing drug related incidents:

When investigating a drugs related incident emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open ended questions rather than closed or leading questions. Pupils involved in an incident will be separated and the school will ensure that a second adult will be present during any investigation.

If during the course of the investigation, it is judged that the police should be involved detailed questioning will cease until the police arrive. Contact will be through the Community Liaison Officer.

The school's policy is that no individuals should be under the influence of drugs (as detailed in this policy) while on the school premises unless a doctor's note indicates that this does not affect the individuals capacity to perform their duties or take care of children in their charge.

All incidents will be logged and retained in the school office.

Procedures in responding to incidents involving drugs.

When a drug related incident has been identified the school will conduct a careful investigation to judge the seriousness of each incident. The incident will be recorded.

When drugs or paraphernalia are found on school premises

- Remove the items and store temporarily in a designated secure place such as the locked cupboard in the medical room.
- Inform the Head teacher.
- If illegal drugs: notify police without delay who will arrange for collection or disposal.

There is no legal obligation to divulge a pupils name.

If suspicious substances are found they will be handed to the police for disposal.

When a pupil has been identified as being under the influence of drugs including the misuse of a medicine:

- Advise Headteacher
- If there is no medical emergency the pupil should be kept calm and under close supervision. If the pupil is intoxicated, consider asking a parent/carer to collect the child.
- If it is a medical emergency call for medical help/ambulance.
- Follow first aid procedures until help arrives.
- Investigate possession
- Inform parents
- Inform other agencies as necessary

Procedure in the event of a disclosure:

When disclosure is made of drug use by a pupil/a parent /a carer where concerns are raised about child's drug use:

- Offer further advice/information. Further action may not be necessary for all disclosures e.g. smoking . Consider whether drug use could be problematic or indicate other problems requiring further action.
- Consider issues of confidentiality and explain issues to parents/ carers involved. (see Confidentiality policy).
- Where there is a child protection issue or where a life is in danger sensitive information may be passed on against the wishes of the child, however this must be seen as the exception and not the rule.

Illegitimate sale/supply of drugs (legal or illegal) in the school vicinity:

- If suspected to be illegal the school should anonymously inform the police
- If alcohol, tobacco or solvents, the school may decide to inform the police or trading standards officer.

Parents/carers under the influence of drugs/alcohol on school premises

Where a parent or carer is suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises and where staff are concerned about discharging the child into the parent/carer's care, the parent or carer will be consulted as to whether alternative arrangements for getting home might be made eg. for the child to travel with another parent/carer. Where the issue raises a higher level of concern and child protection issues become apparent the school will consider invoking child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police. The school is primarily concerned with the welfare of the pupil and not with the moderation of the parent's/carer's behaviour.

Staff/Governors under the influence of drugs/alcohol on school premises

- Advise the Headteacher immediately
- Remove drugs/alcohol and store in a safe, locked place
- Follow first aid procedures if necessary
- Arrange for them to leave the premises
- Provide support connecting with the relevant substance misuse treatment agencies
- Consider appropriate action eg contacting local services
- Log details - in the school office
- Review with the relevant disciplinary procedures for the individual.

Management of drugs at school:

- Medicines which have been authorised will be kept secure and administered according to the medicines/health and safety policies. (Inhalers required by asthma sufferers will be an exception when agreed in consultation with parents and staff).
- Managing medicines is the responsibility of staff with their agreement and in consultation with parents or carers.
- Medicines are administered in accordance with prescriber's instructions.
- When appropriate and in agreement with staff and parents a pupil may manage their own medicines eg. Asthma inhalers.
- A record of all administration of medicines will be kept.
- Staff will not be involved in the administration of non-prescribed medicine (pain relief etc) and this issue should be dealt with on a case by case basis in agreement with the Head teacher, parents and staff.

Smoking

The British School is a smoke free environment. The school has a no smoking policy which applies to all members of staff, visitors (including building maintenance) and social occasions outside school hours.

Alcohol

Alcohol will not normally be kept on school premises except when authorised for school fundraising/social events. When necessary an occasional license to sell alcohol will be obtained in accordance with Licensing Act 1993. Any necessary storage of alcoholic drink will be in a secure place.

APPENDIX 1

ILLEGAL DRUGS FOUND ON SCHOOL PREMISES

ADVISE HEADTEACHER/DESIGNATED TEACHER

KEEP IN A SECURE PLACE

APPENDIX 2

PUPILS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL

ADVISE HEADTEACHER/DESIGNATED TEACHER

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

INVESTIGATE POSSESSION

CHILD IN A SAFE PLACE

INFORM PARENTS

INFORM OTHER AGENCIES AS NECESSARY

APPENDIX 3

PARENTS/CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES - HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN

ADVISE HEADTEACHER/DESIGNATED TEACHER

DECIDES ON ONE OF THE THREE OPTIONS DEPENDENT
ON THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH
INCIDENT

LOCAL POLICE

ASKED TO LEAVE PREMISES

CONTACT SOCIAL
SERVICES

APPENDIX 4

STAFF/GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

ADVISE HEADTEACHER/DESIGNATED TEACHER

DRUGS IN SAFE PLACE

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

ARRANGE FOR THEM TO
LEAVE PREMISES

CONSIDER APPROPRIATE
RISK ACTION

APPENDIX 5

PUPILS DEMONSTRATING INAPPROPRIATE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF DRUGS

ADVISE HEADTEACHER/DESIGNATED TEACHER

DISCUSS WITH
PARENTS

INFORM OTHER AGENCIES
AS NECESSARY

RECORD IN
SCHOOL LOG

APPENDIX 6

**RECEIPT OF INFORMATION RE LOCAL ILLEGITIMATE
SALE OF DRUGS**

INFORM LOCAL POLICE

RECORD IN SCHOOL LOG