

# Worlingham CEVC Primary School

## DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS POLICY

*Like a tree firmly planted by streams of living water we will grow  
in knowledge, love, faith and wisdom. Based on Psalm 1:3*



### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this policy, our definition of drugs includes both illegal and legal drugs.

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is the principle criminal law governing illegal drugs.

Class A drugs include; Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms and amphetamines (if required by injection).

Class B drugs include; Amphetamines, cannabis, methylphenidate (Ritalin) and pholcodine.

Class C drugs include; Tranquilisers, some painkillers, gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and ketamine.

Also included are newer drugs known as New Psychoactive Substances aka 'Legal Highs.'

Legal drugs include alcohol, tobacco, butane gas, nitrates, medicines and glue.

### **THE NEED FOR A POLICY**

It is commonly accepted that drug misuse is a feature of all communities and that our pyramid catchment area is no different. Drug misuse may be a problem for one child in a family, all the children or be a family problem. Drug misuse has implications for the entire community and can directly affect schools. Schools must not only plan a curriculum that educates pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to avoid misuse but also know how to respond and react to drug related incidents.

This policy outlines how schools in the Beccles Partnership should respond to drug related incidents.

### **AIM OF THE POLICY**

To clarify the procedures for dealing with drug related incidents, ensuring that such incidents are dealt with effectively and in the best interests of all concerned.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY**

- 1 To protect pupils from their own misuse of drugs.
- 2 To protect the rest of the school community from misuse of drugs.
- 3 To enable and encourage all concerned to seek advice and support.

### **PROCEDURES**

Please refer to the poster 'Pathways of Action' (Appendix A). This poster is displayed in the staffroom and the medical room.

## **POSSIBLE INCIDENTS**

The poster identifies the following possible situations;

- 1 Drugs are discovered on the school premises.
- 2 A pupil is found in possession of drugs.
- 3 An adult in school suspects a pupil of being under the influence of drugs.
- 4 A pupil discloses that they are misusing drugs.
- 5 A pupil discloses that a parent or guardian is misusing drugs.
- 6 A pupil discloses that a friend is misusing drugs.
- 7 An adult in school becomes aware that drugs are being sold in the vicinity of the school.

## **COMMUNICATION**

In all incidents the Headteacher (or their Deputy) must be informed. The Headteacher will take responsibility for the action to be taken. Parents or guardians will normally be informed, however there may be situations when this is inappropriate (e.g. a disclosure that a parent is using or supplying drugs).

The Headteacher will inform the Chair of Governors.

## **SPECIFIC ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

The seven situations will require specific action.

- 1 Drugs are found on the premises:
  - Inform Headteacher.
  - Store drugs securely.
  - Seek police advice.
- 2 A pupil is found in or suspected of being in possession of drugs:
  - Do not leave the pupil alone (this avoids possible disposal of evidence and to monitor welfare).
  - If a pupil is suspected of being in possession of drugs no personal search or searching of bags or coats is allowed, however a pupil can be invited to empty their pockets or bags, it is strongly recommended that this is done in the presence of a second member of staff.
  - Confiscate drugs.
  - Inform Headteacher.
  - Store drugs securely.
  - Inform police.
  - Inform parents.
  - Inform social services via MASH
- 3 A teacher or other adult suspects a pupil of having taken drugs:
  - Do not leave the pupil alone (for their own personal safety).

- If the pupil is ill or at risk of harm (e.g. unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disorientated) the school's first aid procedures should be followed which might include the telephoning for an ambulance.
- Inform Headteacher.
- Inform police.
- Inform parents.
- Inform social services via MASH

5 A pupil discloses misuse of drugs:

- Inform Headteacher.
- Inform parents.
- Inform Social Services via MASH
- Police do not need to be informed but their advice may be useful.

6 Drugs are on sale in the school vicinity:

- Inform the Headteacher.
- Inform the police.

7 A member of staff is in possession of drugs or suspected of using drugs

- Do not leave the member of staff alone (this avoids possible disposal of evidence and to monitor welfare).
- If a member of staff is suspected of being in possession of drugs no personal search or searching of bags or coats is allowed, however a staff member can be invited to empty their pockets or bags, it is strongly recommended that this is done in the presence of a second member of staff.
- Confiscate drugs.
- Inform Headteacher.
- Store drugs securely.
- Inform police.
- Inform MASH

## **RECORDING OF INCIDENTS**

It is recommended that schools use the 'Record of drug related situation' sheet. A copy is attached to this policy.

## **SANCTIONS**

The school may consider that a sanction or punishment is appropriate. In some cases an exclusion may be necessary if the incident has or is likely to put the health and safety of other pupils or adults in school at risk.

## **STAFF TRAINING**

All schools should identify a nominated person to be responsible for staff training. It is important that all staff receive training on these procedural guidelines for dealing with drug related incidents. Each school should provide a copy of this policy in the staff handbook.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

If a school believes there is a safeguarding issue (i.e. where the pupil is thought to be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm) then Social Services should be informed via MASH.

### **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

SUFFOLK POLICE	101
SOCIAL SERVICES	01502 471806
NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE	0800 776600
TURNING POINT (Suffolk Recovery Network)	0300 1230872
<a href="http://www.turning-point.co.uk/suffolk-recovery-network.aspx">http://www.turning-point.co.uk/suffolk-recovery-network.aspx</a>	
BURE CENTRE	01603 667955

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