

ALAMEDA MIDDLE SCHOOL



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DRUGS POLICY

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RATIONALE

It is the aim of Alameda Middle School to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

AIMS

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum
- To enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff responsible for drugs issues: The PSHE Subject Leader is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff, liaising with external agencies to support the curriculum and developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy.

The Head teacher is responsible for managing drug-related incidents and for liaising with external agencies to support pupils vulnerable to drug misuse.

DEFINITION OF DRUGS

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". This is also used by the DfES in its drugs guidance.

This refers to all drugs:

- Legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and poppers
- Over the counter and prescription medicines



- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD
- other drugs such as anabolic steroids and, volatile substances (solvents).

Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Aim of drug education

To give pupils age-appropriate information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drug use.

To achieve this our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

Key Stage 2 focuses on effects and risks of smoking and alcohol, resisting pressure to do wrong and making safe decisions

The content of the taught units reflects;

- the statutory elements of the Science National curriculum
- aspects of the non-statutory framework for PSHE and citizenship
- In order to ensure that the drug education programme reflects the views of pupils and is appropriate and relevant to them, we will be encouraging pupils take an active part in evaluating the programme through:
 - consultations with pupils through the school council
 - completing end of topic evaluations
 - assessments at the beginning of teaching drug education to establish prior knowledge and understanding

Key stage 3 focuses on information about legal drugs and illegal drugs, their effects and associated health risks. Also, covering peer pressure and developing the ability to say no.

The content of the taught units reflects;

- Scientific terminology including the following words: use, misuse, abuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal and adulteration.
- Different categories of drugs including: stimulants, depressants and hallucinogens.
- The law relating to drugs
- The effects of different level of intake of alcohol



- Advice and support within the local community, national helplines and organisations
- Identifying risks to health
- Communicating with peers, parents and professionals

The drug education curriculum is reviewed three yearly as part of the PSHE monitoring and evaluation led by the PSHE Subject Leader and based on pupil and teacher evaluations.

Where it is taught in the curriculum

Drug education is taught mainly through PSHE and citizenship and through relevant topics in Science eg My Body.

How it is taught

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values as well as learn knowledge, practice skills to cope with drug-related situations and engage actively in their own learning. Such activities include role play, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Pupils work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, mixing up so that they experience working with lots of different pupils in the class, as well as in friendship groups.

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that pupils and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught by the class teacher and subject leader.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

- **Medicines**
The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.
- **Alcohol**
Pupils are not allowed to bring in alcohol on the school for consumption. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school.
- **Tobacco**
The school is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including school vehicles - at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.
- **Solvents**
The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.



- **Illegal drugs**

No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- A designated member of staff is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and be reported to the Head teacher.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in exclusion.,
- The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

PROCEDURES

- **Medical emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

- **Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any pupil or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation. Parents of pupils will be informed and other professionals from the LEA, Youth Service, Police, Social Service etc may be informed or consulted as appropriate.

- **Support for pupils**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of pupils will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely in the pupil's file.



CONFIDENTIALITY

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a pupil discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the pupil to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

- **Legal Drugs**
The police will not normally be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, e.g. alcohol and tobacco. The school will however inform Trading Standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances in the local area.
- **Illegal Drugs**
The police will be contacted to dispose of any illegal drugs found on a person or on the school site. The name and contact details of the local police can be sought from the School Office.
- **Staff training and support**
We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise.

STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

