



OAKLANDS
SCHOOL

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

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Reviewed by	
Approved by	Dr Julie Smith, Chair of Governors

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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Introduction

Oaklands School actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. This is a school where human rights are respected; as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of the Oaklands School community. Oaklands School acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

The school follows the DfE drugs advice for schools - Drugs: advice for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Rationale

The school recognises its obligation under the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the mental and physical well-being of its employees at work. The school also draws to the attention of its employees their individual responsibility under the Act to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and for those who may be affected by their acts or omissions whilst at work.

With regard to pupils this policy covers not only illegal drugs (such as cannabis, heroin and ecstasy) but legal ones too, like alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and drugs sold over the counter or provided on prescription. Although the majority of young people of school-age do not abuse drugs, all pupils are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs.

Such experiments may lead to serious and far-reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For children and young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

The school recognises that alcohol and substance abuse is a major health and social concern that should be treated in a constructive and confidential manner. It believes that early identification and appropriate treatment is the most effective way of dealing with such abuse. The school aims to work with employees and pupils, assisting those affected to acknowledge the problem, and to encourage employees who recognise that they may have a problem to voluntarily seek advice and help.

Employees must not consume alcohol, or any substance that may impair their capability or judgement during their working day.

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through our PSHE curriculum.

Drugs on School Premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, any venue managed by the school at the time (e.g. premises of a school trip or visit).

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or

mentally. For purposes of this policy, by ‘drugs’ we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Medicines

Pupils may have prescribed medications that fall under this definition. The only allowable consumption of prescription or non-prescription medications must be signed off under the procedures laid down in the schools Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (or staff, pupils, parents, carers 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. Parents will be asked to collect their children from school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site 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 and parents informed. This also applies to “vaping” and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal Drugs and “Psychoactive Substances”

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to Drug Related Incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Pupil reports of parents, staff or other pupils using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third

parties)

- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug-related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupil concerned with the wider school community.

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and

Allowing a pupil to remain in Oaklands School would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the pupil or others in the school

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) / Headteacher will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. In the event of the DSL not being available, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will co-ordinate the situation. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

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 possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the pupil) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Oaklands School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a pupil though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for Pupils

At our school the welfare of the pupil is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents/carers.

We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Working with the Police

Right to Search

In line with legislation the staff at Oaklands School reserve the right to search pupils if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.

Searches will be carried out by a teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team of the same gender. Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened. The Oaklands School works closely with the Police. If pupils are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items. Similarly, the police will be involved if any pupil is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- the senior leadership team is appointed to have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy
- a planned alcohol and drug education programme is provided as part of the PSHE curriculum, that enhances knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills
- teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents.
- pupils are aware of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them.
- clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents.
- those pupils who have a concern about drugs are provided with support.
- sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's behaviour policy.
- the school actively co-operates with external agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

All Staff are expected to:

- report incidents of drug misuse to a member of the senior leadership team
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support. All teachers are expected to:
- implement the drug education programme and attend associated training to increase their understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising personal skills to resist peer group pressure, and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse.
- provide accurate information about substances widen their own and the pupils' understanding of related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.

Pupils will be expected to:

- follow the school rules.
- alert the staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the school site.

Parents will be encouraged to:

- endorse the school's approach to drugs education
- work in partnership with the school to overcome the misuse of drugs.

The Governing Board will ensure that:

- the school does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, consumption or supply of any controlled drug in addition to solvents, alcohol and tobacco.
- the school, parents and external agencies work together to support any pupil involved in drug abuse
- the governors understands how to deal with drug-related exclusion procedures.

Links to Other Policies

- Oaklands School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Oaklands School First Aid Policy
- Oaklands School Staff Code of Conduct
- Oaklands School Exclusions Policy

Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/