

Drug Incidence Policy

VERSION CONTROL SHEET

POLICY NAME: Drug Incidence Policy

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Document date	Filename	Meeting submitted	Summary of changes required
July 2013		July PSG	New policy
December 2017		December FGC	Reviewed and updated
March 2021		19.03.21 LGB	No changes

Introduction

This policy reflects DfE guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the LA and from local support groups.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities
- Give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme
- Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school
- Enable staff to manage drug-related incidences properly.

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- All medicines, whether over the counter or on prescription.

Mayflower Academy's Statement

- Mayflower Academy believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our Academy is not acceptable.
- We want our Academy to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Responsibilities

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure that staff and Parents/Carers are informed about this drug policy
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively
- Manage any drugs-related incidents
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- Liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme
- Monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy

The Governing Body will:

- Designate a governor with specific responsibility for drugs education
- Establish general guidelines on drugs education
- Support the Headteacher in following these guidelines

- Inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy
- Support the Headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions

Objectives

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- Build on knowledge and understanding
- Provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings
- Explore attitudes and values, examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs
- Develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws and their self-awareness and self-esteem
- Ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner throughout the whole Academy

Drugs Education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, particularly Science, PSHE and SMSC, RE and PE.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when children are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2 children will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our children are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach children that smoking is a habit and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach children about the dangers of volatile substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abuses.

We acknowledge that by the time the children are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip them to handle risky situations, before they meet them.

We aim to teach all children about drugs, however different their ability, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that children with special needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some children may have drug-abusing Parents/Carers.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Mainly a class teacher will take the lessons or seek support from the Academy Nurse or other health professionals. In teaching this course we follow the DfE and LA guidelines.

Drugs at the Academy

If children need to take prescription medicine, their Parents/Carers need to complete the form in reception and a nominated member of staff will administer the medicine. Medicine that is needed in an emergency e.g., inhalers for asthma, adrenalin for anaphylaxis, is to be stored securely in the classroom. Parents/Carers need to bring the medication to the Academy in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medicines received and given. Please see Managing Medicines Policy.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by children. Teachers are cautious with aerosols, glue and with board-cleaning fluids.

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act, 1983.

Drugs Incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in the Academy is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco, or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The priority is safety and first aid i.e., calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated child does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Children suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated and will be returned to parents; the Academy may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances. Where a child is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search the child's bags, tray etc.

The Headteacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

A full record will be made of any incident.

The Headteacher will investigate the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The Academy is aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our children, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. This will be reinforced by:

- Informing parents about the school drugs policy
- Answering any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in the Academy
- Taking seriously any issues that parents raise

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a child is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discarding a child to the care of an intoxicated Parent/Carer. The focus will be on the child's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour repeatedly places a child at risk, or the Parent/Carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

Monitoring and Reviewing

We will continue to monitor and annually review this policy. We will create opportunities for discussion with the children, staff, Parents/Carers and Governors through the Academy Council, meetings and newsletters.