

Hazelwick Drugs Education Policy

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1. Aim of the policy

Hazelwick School promotes a healthy lifestyle to all the students (Years 7-13) on its roll. The purpose of this policy is to inform, guide and advise all staff, parents/carers and governors of Hazelwick School about the drug education programme and the school's attitude to drug use and misuse.

Definition of a drug

A drug can be any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates a change in perception and/or mood and/or how the body functions, e.g. controlled drugs, tobacco, alcohol and solvents and psychoactive substances ('legal highs').

Statement of policy on substance use and misuse

Hazelwick aims to keep students safe from the harm which can be caused as a result of substance misuse.

2. Objectives for Drug Education

Students will know and understand:

- school rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs
- definitions of key words: use, misuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal, adulteration
- the nature of addiction
- different categories of drugs, including stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens and analgesics
- different types of medicine (both prescribed and over the counter), legal and illegal drugs, including their form, effects and risks
- information about drugs – appearance, effects, legal status
- the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs
- the effects of different levels of intake of alcohol and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood
- which people or agencies can help students if they have concerns
- dangers associated with particular drugs, mixing of drugs, particular moods and environments, as well as associated risks linked with drug use – e.g. mental health conditions
- drugs policy in this country, including education, prevention, policing, penalties, treatment and rehabilitation

Students will be able to:

- identify risks to health
- cope with peer influences

- communicate with adults, parents/carers and professionals
- make decisions and be assertive in situations relating to drug misuse
- communicate drug advice to other young people

Students will have considered:

- their attitudes towards drugs and the laws relating to them
- themselves as a role model, and acceptance of responsibility for their own actions
- taking responsibility for their own safety

3. The role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The Headteacher:

- takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, Local Authority/DfE and appropriate outside agencies
- will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained
- takes responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking into account such factors as:
 - the age of the student concerned
 - whether the incident involved one student or a group of students
 - whether there is evidence of peer group pressure
 - the application of the school sanctions policy

In instances involving substance misuse, following discussion between staff members who know the student well, parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by a senior member of staff.

The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance-related incidents in the same manner as any other manner concerning the direction of the school.

4. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

The following information provides guidance for all staff when dealing with a drug-related incident.

If a student is found in possession of illegal drugs whilst at school they will be excluded, either for a fixed period or permanently. If a student is found to be dealing drugs in school, they will be permanently excluded. Refer to the Behaviour Policy for further information.

Staff response to a suspected or actual drug-related incident:

If it is believed that a student is under the influence of drugs:

- consult immediately with the School First Aider and Welfare Assistant; either directly, by phone, or by sending a reliable student to the medical wing
- use the Senior Staff lesson support system

If a student discloses to a member of staff that he/she is taking drugs or knows of someone else involved, the staff member should refer the matter to **an appropriate senior member of staff immediately**. Normal safeguarding and child protection procedures apply.

Drugs found on a student or in their belongings

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a student's possessions contain unlawful items, including illegal drugs, or if students are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person:

- use the Senior Staff lesson support system and in addition send immediately for a senior member of staff

- the member of staff should **not** leave the teaching room or area concerned, **nor** should students be allowed to leave until the situation has been dealt with
- the senior member of staff should first make every reasonable effort to secure the voluntary production of an unlawful substance, for example by asking the student to turn out their pockets, empty their bags or open their locker; this search must take place in the presence of the student and another member of staff. One of the members of staff must be of the same gender as the student.
- it should be made clear that where students are suspected of being in possession of illegal drugs the school can search without the student's consent; if the student refuses to be searched, the parents/carers will be informed that the police are going to be contacted to deal with the situation.
- intimate physical searches must **never** be made by **any** member of staff
- the student must **not** be left on their own or in a place where they can have contact with other students until the search has been made
- the senior member of staff must inform the Headteacher

For further details regarding a school's powers to search students, see the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Headteachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies, DfE, January 2018.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

Incidents outside the school premises

Where a teacher is told, or is aware, of possible criminal activity outside school premises, they should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

DOCUMENT REVISION CONTROL

Revision Number	Summary of Changes	Date of Change
1	A total review and rewrite of the entire policy	Oct 17
2	Minor words changed and update to the DfE link dated January 2018	Oct 20
3	Reviewed document and updated section 2 Objectives for Drug Education	Oct 23