



POLICY IN RESPECT OF DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS

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| Policy Number: | NSP1 | Created by: | Adapted from Ranvilles JS policy |
| Reviewed by: | FGB | Responsibility: | FGB |
| Last Review: | Summer 2024 | Next Review: | Summer 2027 |
| Review Cycle: | Every 3 Years | Ratified by GB: | 15/07/2024 |

This policy is available in large print. Please contact the school office who will be happy to arrange this for you.

1. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out how we aim for Purbrook Junior School to remain a safe environment, free from the use of illegal drugs and controlled substances. This school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

For the purpose of this policy the term drug is used to include: illegal substances and substances which are legal, but can be misused.

2. Introduction and the Role of Schools

Purbrook Junior School condones neither the abuse of drugs including alcohol or solvents by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.

We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward. We believe and support the following educational objectives in respect of substance use and abuse:

- to provide pupils with accurate information about substances relative to their maturity.
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse
- to encourage pupils to seek help and appropriate support to identify sources of appropriate personal support

Members of the local community, community groups and all others using the campus will be encouraged to take opportunities to reinforce our policy aim.

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the Government's Drug Strategy 2010 ensures that school staff have the information and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;

- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

This school condones neither the use of illegal substances, NPS (see below), alcohol, tobacco or vapes, nor the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines.

NPS (New Psychoactive Substances)

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances are included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

This policy is deemed to apply to all children on the roll of Purbrook Junior School, all staff employed by the school and anyone else using the premises e.g. parents, volunteers, visitors and contractors working on site.

The policy relates to the school premises, which are defined as: all school buildings and the school grounds. It also relates to children and all accompanying adults when engaged in off-site activities, which have been organised by the school e.g. school visits and sports activities.

3. References

DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools date September 2012 (www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools)

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Outside Agencies

Purbrook Junior School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services, Local Authority and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of drug or substance use and abuse.

4.2 Governing Body

The Governing Body will be responsible for ensuring that the policy is reviewed and evaluated. The Governing Body will ensure that procedures are in place to detect and deal with any incident, which may arise.

4.3 Headteacher

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, Community groups, parents, Local Authority, the media and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance abuse issues are adequately supported and trained.

4.4 Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Lead

The PSHE manager will have responsibility for implementing the school's planned drug education programme to ensure that children are made aware of the dangers of drug and substance abuse.

4.5 Pastoral Support

This school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils needing support to come forward. With children of Junior School-age it is obviously appropriate for parents to be involved at a very early stage.

Any adults felt to be in need of pastoral support in relation to this issue would be encouraged to contact one of the outside support agencies, a list of which is available from the school.

All parties will be made aware of the national drugs helpline telephone number 0300 123 6600 and other local sources of information and support.

4.6 Parents

Purbrook Junior School encourages parental involvement and may periodically provide opportunities to share with parents the philosophy and aims of the drugs and substance policy and to provide up to date information.

5. Procedure

The following procedures apply during the school day and beyond, where pupils are engaged in activities, trips or visits organised by the school, on or off the school premises:

- The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, the other school members and the local community.
- Permanent exclusion is the most likely outcome for any pupils using or supplying controlled substances whilst at school. This is seen as an important statement to the pupils that such behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the County Council Policy on Drug and Alcohol Abuse as published in the Manual of Personnel Practice.
- The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance abuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA Press Office and Legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school. In such circumstances the LA would be informed as soon as possible.

Procedures may apply to pupils travelling to and from the school in situations where it is appropriate for the school to assume responsibility. Accordingly, where the term 'the school' is used in this policy, it should be taken to include all the circumstances described in this section.

Instances involving the abuse of drugs or controlled substances or their supply on the premises are immediately drawn to the attention of the Senior Leadership Team.

Parents will be informed by the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity of the incident and action taken to date. The school and the parents can then work together to support the young person(s) involved, whatever the level of the school's disciplinary response. If the school becomes aware of a young person using or supplying substances off the premises, the Headteacher will inform the parents.

If the school have evidence that controlled substances are being supplied to pupils on the premises, details regarding those, together with as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police.

Where a young person discloses drug or substance abuse on the premises, staff will inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team and where appropriate, participate in the planning of subsequent action. Where a young person discloses substance abuse off the premises, the staff member will use his or her discretion to decide on appropriate action, in consultation with the Head.

Where staff discover substances, which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation, they should note the two circumstances in which substances may be removed (from either a place or a person)

Removal from a place. If possible, remove the substance from where it was discovered in the presence of an adult witness. If this is not possible, do not leave the substance there while you enlist the support of a colleague or adult as a witness. Continue with the procedure below.

Removal from a person. When receiving or retrieving substances from a pupil, do so, if possible, in the presence of an adult witness. In the absence of a witness, do not put off receiving substances, or within bounds of your professional discretion, removing a suspicious substance from a pupil's possession.