

ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

DRUGS POLICY

This policy contains information on drugs education particularly in the context of PSE and the management of drugs related incidents.

The Governors of the School do not condone the possession or use of drugs, as outlined above, by members of the School, nor the supply of these substances. They require that firm, but appropriate, action shall be taken against any individual or group possessing, using or trading these drugs.

Pupils need to be fully aware that the law in our society does not allow the misuse of drugs and defines its conception of this.

The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and the importance of substance abuse education. As part of this, Drug education is provided within science classes, and as appropriate within other subject areas, and as part of the broader health education programme in PSE lessons. Tutorial time may also be devoted to this subject on occasions.

1. DRUG EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM

The National Curriculum Science Order requires that the following is taught: “At Key Stage 3 the school teaches (11-14 year olds) how the abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health, how the boy’s natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange. At Key Stage 4 (14-16 year olds) the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions”.

Pupils need to be taught about the physiological and psychological effects of drugs and the implications for individuals, the family and society of drug abuse. They should be encouraged to reject drugs because of their own belief rather than because they have been taught to say ‘no’. They need positive attitudes towards living a drug-free life, be able to make informed decisions about drugs, and have sufficient self-confidence to reject their use.

In this School, drug education is part of our health education programme taught within PSE lessons. On occasions outside speakers e.g. the Community Police Officer, and Theatre-Education groups may be invited into School. Their contribution complements the other teaching, and teachers will be present so that they are able to pursue any follow-up work.

2. DRUG MISUSE - DEFINITION (cf. Appendix 1)

Drug misuse is the non-medical use of drugs that are intended for use in medical treatment and the use of drugs that have no accepted medical purpose. Such drugs are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The main drugs misused include

- opiates eg. heroin
- stimulants eg. cocaine, amphetamines, Ecstasy
- tranquillisers eg. temazepan
- hallucinogens eg. LSD
- cannabinioids eg. cannabis

Solvent misuse, tobacco, nitrous oxide, alcohol and other non-controlled drugs are not covered by the Act but are part of this policy.

3. MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

It is recognised that all areas may be affected and that all young people may find themselves at risk.

It is likely that many pupils from this school, in the course of their social lives, will frequent venues at which illegal drugs are freely available.

The Governors are also aware that young people are under considerable pressure in their social lives to both smoke and drink.

4. ACTION IN THE EVENT OF DRUG ABUSE

The School takes a strong stand against drug misuse.

4.1. Illegal Substances

4.1.1. Rules

Any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises or being under the influence of drugs are regarded with the utmost seriousness and are strictly forbidden in all the following circumstances:-

- a) on the journey to or from school.
- b) on any school visit, including residential visits.
- c) at any time while in school uniform.
- d) during the school day.
- e) on the school premises.

Action may be taken in accordance with the procedure in any other circumstances which the Head Master (or in his absence a Deputy) shall consider appropriate. This may include a pupil being under the influence of illegal drugs.

The School reserves the right to take action in respect of any pupil who is cautioned or convicted of an offence relating to the possession etc of illegal drugs, even where this has not occurred in the circumstances described above.

4.1.2. Procedure

The Role of the Staff

- i) In the event that a member of staff suspects the possession use or supply of illegal drugs on the premises or in any of the circumstances set out above he *shall* inform the Head Master (or in his absence a Deputy) without delay (and in any event within 1 hour) so that appropriate action can be taken,
- ii. “Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make clear to the pupil that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse”. (Circular 4/95). The teacher *shall* inform the Head Master, who in turn will inform parents. The Head Master may direct the parents and pupil to sources of confidential advice.

- iii Any member of staff who suspects offences involving the possession use or supply of illegal drugs in close proximity to the school premises shall report the matter to the Head Master (or in his absence a Deputy) who shall report the matter to the Police *"if he considers it appropriate in all the circumstances"*
- iv Staff may take temporary possession of drugs for safety but must not attempt to analyse or test them. The sample should be left in a secure place pending instructions from the police.
- v Teachers should always have another senior member of staff present, to act as a witness (usually the Head Master or a Deputy):-
 - * Pupils' desks, lockers or bags must be searched if staff believe illegal substances are there.
 - * Pupils may be asked to empty their pockets, but intimate pupil searches should never be made by a teacher.
- vi Any pupil suspected of possession will be supervised until the immediate situation is clarified.
- vii A pupil taking public examinations would be allowed to sit the exam that day; it may be necessary for parents to make alternative arrangements for subsequent exams, eg. home invigilation or referral to an external agency.
- viii Signed, dated, written statements must be provided by all (both pupils and staff) involved in any incident without delay.

4.1.3 **Involvement of the Police**

“Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, the Secretary of State would expect the Police to be informed when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises.” (Drug Prevention and School, Circular 4/95).

Should this be the case in this School, the Head Master or in his absence a Deputy, will notify the local police. Pupils involved may be interviewed by the police on the School premises once their parents have been informed. In such cases it is hoped that parents will be present and every effort will be made to facilitate this. If this is not possible a senior member of staff will be in the room.

4.2. **Sanctions**

These will be imposed by the Head Master in accordance with School Rules.

4.2.1. **Tobacco (including electronic cigarettes & vapours)**

Rules

Smoking is strictly forbidden in all of the following circumstances:-

1. on the journey to or from school.
2. on any school visit, including residential visits.
3. at any time while in school uniform.
4. during the school day.

5. on the school premises.

Sanctions

Punishment will be imposed at the discretion of the Head Master.

4.2.2. Alcohol

Rules

Alcohol consumption or possession are not allowed :-

1. on the journey to or from school.
2. on any school visit, including residential visits.
3. at any time while in school uniform.
4. during the school day.
5. on the school premises.

Sanctions

Punishment will be imposed at the discretion of the Head Master.

5. CARE OF DRUG MISUSERS

The school will attempt to ensure that any pupil offending against this policy, will receive suitable counselling, advice and support where appropriate. The pupil's parents have a primary role and duty in this respect and they will be supported by the School in their endeavours.

Staff are asked to refer any outside enquiries to the Head Master and not comment publicly themselves.

Appendix 1

(a) **The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**

“It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- i. to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act;
- ii. to be in possession or, to possess with intent to supply to another controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he took all such steps as were reasonably open to him to destroy the drugs or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it;
- iii. for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply; or offering to supply of any controlled drug.”

(b) **The Law in Relation to Tobacco and Alcohol**

- i. It is an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.
It is an offence under Section 6 of the Children and Young Person Act 1933 to give any child under the age of 5 intoxicating liquor.
- ii. The Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 strengthened the existing law on illegal sales of tobacco products to children under the age of 16.

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