



RAINHILL HIGH SCHOOL

DRUG POLICY



Rainhill High School Media Arts College Drug Policy

The DfES use the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's definition of a drug: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and medicines.

The majority of young people of school age have never used an illegal drug. Of those who do experiment with illegal drugs very few will go on to become problem drug users. However, most will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco and alcohol. Every school therefore has a responsibility to consider its response to drugs and all schools are expected to have a policy which sets out the school's role in relation to all drug matters. (Drugs: Guidance for Schools DFES 2004)

This policy covers:

- ☐ All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- ☐ All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers).

The school will have a separate procedure with regard to over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Statement of Intent

The intention of the policy is to generate within the school a clear attitude towards drugs, and to define procedures to be adopted in respect of drug- related incidents. This would optimise the effectiveness of school's action in minimising the damaging effects that these substances may have on the lives and opportunities of pupils. Any transgression of this policy will be subject to the school's sanctions and disciplinary procedures. Relevant to this policy are the following documents: Anti-Bullying, SEN, Child Protection, Behaviour.

The Boundaries of the Policy

The jurisdiction of this Policy includes staff, students, parents/carers, partner agencies working in the school and visitors to the school.

The policy applies on the school site, during school visits and on school transport. Students and staff attending educational courses in other educational institutions will be subject to this policy and to the host educational establishment's drug policy. Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the boundaries identified within the policy.

Aims of the Policy

1. To make a clear statement about the school's attitude towards drugs.
2. To define the educational programmes to be adopted to raise awareness of all staff and pupils in respect of drugs.

3. To define the procedures to be adopted in respect of drug-related incidents.

Objectives of the Policy

A Clear Statement of the School's Position

- ☐ The possession or use on the school premises of any controlled substance, or the attendance at school under the influence of any controlled substance by anyone, will be treated as an act of gross misconduct.
- ☐ The possession of alcohol by a pupil and/or the use of alcohol on the school premises or attendance at school by anyone under the influence of alcohol will be deemed unacceptable.
- ☐ Rainhill High School has adopted a No Smoking policy within its boundaries, and so the possession and/or use of tobacco by any pupil will be treated within the boundaries identified within this policy.
- ☐ The school acknowledges what the Law has to say about these substances and will take into account both the age of the person(s) involved in any incident and the precise nature of the substance before finally determining a reaction.
- ☐ The school recognises that young people will be particularly prone to experimentation with drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and vulnerable to the influence of those who seek to promote such experimentation for whatever reason.
- ☐ Vulnerable pupils will be identified and offered the appropriate support relevant to their individual needs and circumstances. Other agencies (e.g. Child Protection) may need to be involved.
- ☐ The school believes that Tobacco, alcohol and drug education is a whole school responsibility and is most effectively delivered through Personal Social and Health Education programmes. This can offset the influence of those who seek to interest young people

in the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and school will endeavour to deliver an appropriate programme to all pupils within the school.

DRUG EDUCATION

Rainhill High School provides a Drug Education Curriculum as part of the PSHE programme that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. It is the school's aim that Drug Education will:

- ☐ Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practicing skills
- ☐ Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- ☐ Provide accurate information about substances
- ☐ Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- ☐ Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- ☐ Widen understanding about related health and social issues eg: Sex and relationships, crime, HIV and AIDS
- ☐ Seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- ☐ Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The school actively liaises with other agencies such as community police, children's services, LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education. We also have a Safer School's Police Officer on site for 1 day a week to assist in investigating drug related incidents and to provide support and counselling for those pupils involved.

The aim of drug, alcohol and tobacco education is:

- ☐ To increase student knowledge and understanding of the effects of drug, alcohol and tobacco use
- ☐ To examine different perceptions of peoples' behaviour and how stereotyping can affect those perceptions

☐ To consider the effects of drug, alcohol and tobacco use

- ☐ To explore attitudes and values towards drugs and their use
- ☐ To gain a basic understanding of UK Drug Laws and Punishments

Drug, alcohol and tobacco education includes learning about:

- ☐ Over-the-counter or prescription medicines, including anabolic steroids and poppers (amyl nitrite)
- ☐ Legal substances such as caffeine, alcohol and tobacco
- ☐ Volatile substances, for example glues, aerosol propellants, gases illegally produced, owned or supplied substances such as those covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – for example, cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine.

DRUG EDUCATION

- ☐ Teaching programmes and methods will be the responsibility of the Head of Life Skills
- ☐ Resources are made available to all staff delivering the programme.
- ☐ External Agencies will support and contribute to the programme on Themed Days and within the Tutorial period
 - ☐ E.g
 - ☐ Drama workshops
 - ☐ Media
 - ☐ Local Health authority
- ☐ Members of staff will be offered Drugs Awareness training which will be regularly updated.
- ☐ All staff will be provided with the standard information about the dangers of smoking and alcohol.
- ☐ Staff who request support to stop smoking and/or control the use of alcohol will be offered referral to Occupational Health.
- ☐ Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco awareness raising programmes will form part of PHSE in both KS3,KS4 & KS5
- ☐ Specific awareness raising programmes related to alcohol and driving will be delivered in the Sixth form.

- ☐ Drug education will be delivered in line with the National Curriculum requirements at any particular time.
- ☐ Pupils will be given the opportunity to evaluate the delivery of the programme.
- ☐ Programmes will be regularly reviewed and updated by those staff delivering them.

PROCEDURE INVOLVING INCIDENTS WITH DRUGS AND/OR VOLATILE SUBSTANCES (i.e. substances defined as ‘drugs’ by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).

- ☐ All information, suspicion and evidence must be reported to the Deputy Headteacher PDBW ECM and the Safer Schools Police Officer.
- ☐ Any physical evidence must be bagged, labelled with relevant information (e.g. time/date/place obtained/ from whom obtained/ by whom obtained) and locked in a place of safety as soon as possible, in the presence of a witness.
- ☐ All persons involved must be interviewed separately by the Deputy Headteacher PDBW and (where appropriate) the Safer Schools Police Officer as soon as possible. A written record of the interview must be kept using the LA drug incident form. In the event of either person being absent from school, KS3 or 4 progress leader will deputise.
- ☐ If pupils are involved, parents must be informed, unless there are known Child Protection issues.
- ☐ The police may be contacted to dispose of any illegal drugs.
- ☐ If pupils are involved they may be contacted by the Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Team and offered an appointment to meet with them for support.
- ☐ Pupils involved may face a Fixed Term Exclusion from school and possibly arrested and charged by the police.
- ☐ If an employee is involved, the Headteacher should make the necessary referrals to Chair of Governors and Director of Education.
- ☐ If sanctions are imposed, then each case will be taken on its individual merits and take account of the LA guidelines.

- ☐ See Appendix 2 – 14-19 Protocols – for further guidance on procedure.

POLICE INVOLVMENT

- ☐ Police involvement would depend entirely on the circumstances surrounding the incident. See Appendix 2 – 14-19 Protocols – for further guidance on procedure.
- ☐ A serious incident is one which meets the definition of a serious arrestable offence in accordance with Section 116 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 [now repealed by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 and defined as an indictable offence.
- ☐ This advice is appropriate and proportionate, and enables limited resources to be used to identify, prosecute and criminalise those who supply the drugs that pupils use, rather than identify, prosecute and criminalise young people who use drugs.
- ☐ A police officer who is contemplating making an arrest of a young person in school for any reason, such as the possession of illegal drugs, should consider whether this action is absolutely necessary and reasonable given the surrounding circumstances.

ALCOHOL

- ☐ In the case of a pupil, all information, suspicion and evidence must be reported to the Deputy Headteacher PDBW as soon as possible.
- ☐ In the case of an employee, all information, suspicion and evidence must be reported to the Headteacher as soon as possible. If the employee is the Headteacher, the matter must be reported to the Deputy Headteacher PDBW and the Chair of Governors.
- ☐ All persons involved must be interviewed separately by a senior member of staff as soon as possible and a written record kept of the interview using the LA drug incident form.
- ☐ If a pupil is involved, parents must be informed. The school may refer the case to the Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team for support.
- ☐ Any information about traders supplying pupils with alcohol should be passed on to LA drugs advisor and the relevant agencies (Police, Trading standards).

- ☐ Sanctions must be appropriate and take account of individual circumstances.

TOBACCO

- ☐ All incidents involving smoking should be reported to the relevant Year Progress Leaders who will take appropriate action in line with school policy guidelines.
- ☐ Any information about traders supplying under-age pupils with tobacco would be investigated and where necessary, reported to the relevant agencies.
- ☐ Pupils who wish to stop smoking can access support through a range of outside agencies. Any teacher can refer a pupil confidentially.
- ☐ Sanctions should be appropriate as per the School Behaviour Policy. These will vary depending on the circumstances.

STATEMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

Advice, information and referral (individually and in the classroom)

Honest and unbiased information should be given according to the agreed policy. Staff should be aware that individual advice about a student's personal use of substances is not appropriate but that the provision of information about other sources of information/support agencies/helplines, is.

Confidentiality/Disclosure

Adults within the school community should have due regard to confidentiality and students should be made aware of the boundaries of confidentiality should they choose to make a disclosure to an adult within the school community (see Section 4.3 Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES 2004)

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be monitored and reviewed by Governors PDBW Committee and SLT in 12 months, but not longer than 2 years, taking account of National Guidelines.

Notes

1. Key documents which have informed this policy outline
 - ☐ Drugs: Guidance for Schools, DfES/0092/2004 www.dfes.gov.uk/drugsguidance
 - ☐ St.Helens Schools Drug-Related Incident Policy, www.sthelens.gov.uk
 - ☐ Safer St Helens – St Helens 14-19 Protocols for Managing Substance Related Incidents – Responding to Incidents Involving Drugs, www.sthelens.gov.uk

2. Additional useful websites
 - ☐ www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe
 - ☐ www.qca.org.uk
 - ☐ www.rainhillhighschool.org.uk (“Links”, “VLE”, “Boardworks”, “Drugs Education”)