



NOTTING HILL & EALING
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Senior School

Drug Abuse Policy

2024-2025

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Policy on Drug Abuse

(Whole School including EYFS)

Introduction

Drugs - A Definition

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

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. Most will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco or alcohol. Some will continue to use on a regular basis. There are complex motivations behind a young person's decision to first experiment with alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs. However, very few of those who experiment with illegal drugs will go on to become problem drug users. All pupils, including those in primary schools, are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Every school therefore has a responsibility to consider its response to drugs. (Drugs: Guidance for Schools DFES 2004)

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to:

- 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 nitrites (known as poppers)
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs (as designated by the Headmaster) within school boundaries is unacceptable.

This policy should be read in conjunction the following policies: medicines, behaviour, safeguarding, confidentiality, health and safety

Policy Development

This policy has been drawn up by members of the pastoral team. The Headmaster and Senior Deputy Head Pastoral are responsible for reviewing the policy and the Senior Deputy Head Pastoral is responsible for planning and co-ordinating the drug education curriculum.

This policy has drawn on the following guidance documents:

- Drugs: Guidance for Schools DFES 2004
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco education - curriculum guidance for schools at key stages 1-4 (QCA 2003)

Aims

The aims of the school drug policy are to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme



- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

The Boundaries of the Policy

Any pupil involved in illegal drugs when she is under NHEHS' authority can expect to be permanently excluded from school and the police will be informed. Being under NHEHS' authority means:

- throughout the school day, whether on or off the premises
- whenever she is involved in any activity organised by NHEHS
- whenever she is identifiable as a member of NHEHS e.g. in school uniform

In addition, where it has been brought to the attention of the Headmaster that a pupil has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the school reserves the right to permanently exclude her.

If a group of girls appear to an onlooker all to be involved in any such activity, they are likely all to be disciplined in the same way, even if only some of them were, for example, smoking. Girls should take this as a warning not to associate with other girls if they are breaking school rules.

Smoking

Smoking is the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death in our society. The school policy on smoking aims to give pupils the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike and that non-smoking represents the norm in society.

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, tobacco or vapes, is prohibited when a pupil is under NHEHS' authority (see above). Involvement with smoking of any sort (including smoking in uniform out of school, or for sixth formers out of uniform, either close to the school or on a school trip) will normally result in a fixed period exclusion. Girls in school who smell strongly of smoke or vapes will be treated as if they had been found smoking. Their parents will be informed and other appropriate punishments may be administered. For a persistent offender the Headmaster reserves the right to review the pupil's membership of the School community.

Alcohol

Alcohol is readily available and generally considered acceptable in many social groups. Given its prevalence and the vulnerability of young people to the impact of alcohol misuse and changes in drinking behaviours, educating pupils about the effects of alcohol and how to reduce alcohol related harm is an important priority for all schools.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited when a pupil is under NHEHS' authority (see above). There may be exceptions, such as the option to serve wine to over 18s at the Leavers' Ceremony, but such exceptions will be clearly flagged to girls and parents. Pupils found in possession of alcohol or using it, whilst under the authority of the school can expect to receive a fixed period exclusion. Their parents will be informed and other appropriate punishments may be administered. For a persistent offender the Headmaster reserves the right to review the pupil's membership of the School community.

Drug Education

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



Aims

The school aims to give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drug use. To achieve this, our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

Drug education is delivered through assemblies, PSHCEE and science lessons. The programme is based on:

- National Curriculum Science programme of study
- National Curriculum PSHCEE framework
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco education, curriculum guidance for schools at Key Stages 1-4 (QCA, 2003)
- Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 92/2004)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) pupils learn that medicines are given by an adult to help them feel better. They also learn the importance of being safe and not touching medicines.

At Key Stage 1 pupils learn about the role of drugs as medicine and they also learn about healthy eating.

At Key Stage 2 pupils learn about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health. They also learn about making choices, looking after their bodies and healthy eating.

At Key Stage 3 pupils learn more about the effects and risks of drugs and the laws relating to drugs. They learn the skills to recognise and manage risk and to resist pressures. They continue to develop the skills to make choices for a healthy lifestyle and learn about where to go for help and advice.

At Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils build on their knowledge and learn more about the effects of drug misuse on family, friends, community and society. They gain greater understanding through clarifying their opinions and attitudes in discussions and debate and considering the consequences of their decisions.

Methodology and Resources

We use a variety of teaching methods to deliver drug education with the aim of making sessions as interactive as possible. These may include the following: debates, quizzes, role play, discussion, small-group activities, worksheets, visiting speakers, theatre groups, TV and online programmes. Visiting speakers, theatre groups and external agencies may be used to support and extend the classroom teaching. These will always complement the school's scheme of work for drugs education and a teacher will always be present and retain overall responsibility in the classroom.

Staff Support and Training

Staff induction will include training on the school's drug and other related policies. Where possible, we will offer staff an ongoing programme of professional development to ensure they have up to date knowledge and feel confident to discuss drug related issues. This may take a variety of forms such as training courses, shadowing or co-teaching with other members of staff or visiting other schools.

Assessment, monitoring, evaluation and reviewing

The Senior Deputy Head Pastoral in the Senior School and Head of the Junior School are responsible for overall monitoring of drug education, which might include

- observing lessons
- looking at a sample of pupils' work



- looking at schemes of work
- getting feedback from Heads of Year, tutors and pupils about what has been covered
- including drug education/PSHCEE as a regular agenda item at HOY and tutor group meetings

Equal Opportunities

The School's equal opportunities policy applies to drug education with it being accessed by all pupils at the appropriate stage of their education.

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

Honest and unbiased information should be given according to the agreed policy. It is not appropriate for teaching staff to give individual advice about a student's personal use of substances but the provision of information about other sources of information/support agencies/help-lines is appropriate.

Confidentiality/disclosure

Staff should follow NHEHS' policy on confidentiality issues. Pupils should also be made aware of the boundaries of confidentiality should they choose to make a disclosure to a member of staff (see section 4.3 Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES 2004)

Clarification of attitudes towards harm reduction strategies

The safer use of illegal substances is not dealt with as part of NHEHS' drug education programme. However, this may be a strategy used by some outside agencies, to which young people already experimenting may be referred.

Support for parents

Research shows that parents/carers have a crucial role in preventing problem drug use. All parents will have access to this policy on the school website. From time to time the school may arrange sessions in which information about illegal drugs and their use will be presented, as well as on tobacco and alcohol. Materials specifically for parents/carers are also available from the FRANK helpline/website.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs (as designated by the Headmaster) within school boundaries is unacceptable. For any drug incident, the utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help.

Incidents are likely to involve suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs. They could fit into the following categories:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- a pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- a pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- a pupil is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- a pupil, parent/carers or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- a staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- a pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

NHEHS will conduct a careful investigation to judge the nature and seriousness of any incident. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open-ended, rather than closed or leading questions. Any pupils involved in the incident will be separated and a second adult witness will be present. The Headmaster and Senior Deputy Head Pastoral will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.



Possession of authorised drugs

Authorised drugs include prescribed and over the counter medicines. All medications are looked after by Mrs McGinn (school nurse) and it is her responsibility to gain parental authorisation. It is the pupil's responsibility to carry her own asthma inhaler and emergency medicines e.g. Adrenaline pens on them at all times and a second set is kept in the medical room. It is the responsibility of the parent/ carer to ensure that the medication is in date and is replaced when necessary.

Possession of a legal drug

If any pupil is found in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or alcohol they will be taken from her. The substance will then be taken immediately to one of the Deputy Heads or the Headmaster. The pupil will then be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Their parents will be informed and pupils can expect to receive a fixed period exclusion. Other appropriate punishments may also be given. For a persistent offender the Headmaster reserves the right to review the pupil's membership of the School community.

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but NHEHS may wish to inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.

Possession of an illegal drug

If any pupil is found in possession of a suspicious substance, it will be taken from her. The substance will then be taken immediately to the Headmaster. In the case of illegal drugs, the school will, without delay, notify the police, who will collect and then store or dispose of them in line with locally agreed protocols. The police may prosecute the pupil.

The pupil will be interviewed by the Headmaster. If it is an illegal drug, the pupil will be isolated immediately and her parents called to the school. The Headmaster will speak with them and the pupil can expect to be permanently excluded.

Searching pupils and pupils' property

NHEHS will always seek consent to search property and ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused we will need to consider whether to call the police. Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress.

Personal searches

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs it is not appropriate for a member of staff to carry out a personal search; this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort will be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second adult witness. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then the police will be called.

Searches of school property

Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' lockers or desks if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Girls will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may proceed with a search.

Searches of personal property

Schools must not search personal property without consent. If the school wishes to search personal property, including pupils' property stored within school property, for example a bag or pencil case within a locker, they should ask for consent. Where consent is refused we will consider, in the case of pupils, notifying parents/carers, who may persuade their child to give consent or if they wish to proceed along formal lines calling the police.



After any search involving pupils, parents/carers will be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative.

Drug Testing

Where there is concern about a pupil regarding the misuse of drugs, it is possible, with the consent of the relevant pupil and parents, for drug testing to take place.

Involvement of Parents

Parents will always be immediately informed of any incidents involving illegal or unauthorised drugs unless this would jeopardise the pupil's safety.

Parents/carers are encouraged to approach the school if they are concerned about any issue related to drugs and their child. We may be able to refer parents/carers to other sources of help, for example, specialist drug agencies or family support groups.

Recording of incidents

A record of any drug-related situation will be documented and held on the pupil's file.

Last Reviewed July 2024

Next Review: July 2025

