

## DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

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<b>Committee Responsible</b>	SBS
<b>Designated member of staff</b>	Sharon Mercer
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### PHILOSOPHY

The health and wellbeing of our school community is taken extremely seriously at Grey Court School and we see it as a priority to educate our students in the best ways to stay safe, happy, healthy and able to achieve. Drugs and their use is an area of increasing concern for students and it is therefore an issue which should be addressed within the school context. Many students at some stage will be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and some will try tobacco or alcohol. Some will continue to use drugs on a regular basis. There are complex motivations behind a student'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. Most students 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.

Grey Court School and our community partnerships with parents/carers and the range of agencies working with students and their families, have an important role to play in the delivery of the Government's strategies on illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

### PURPOSE

This policy has guidance on behaviour around drug use and makes clear the boundaries of acceptable behaviour in relation to drug use on the premises including cigarette smoking, vaping and the sanctions and penalties applied to those choosing to ignore them.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION**

### **Aims**

Grey Court School believes that all students need to have an environment in which they feel safe and have:

- Accurate and accessible knowledge about drugs, their use and misuse, their effects both long and short term, individual, societal and global. These need to be presented in ways that make them easily understood.
- Support to develop life skills, including those we use for negotiation, relationships, problem solving, making life choices, assertion, facing criticism, coping with difficult times, managing money etc.
- Support to develop an understanding of good citizenship, moral values and the law
- Drugs education as part of an integrated programme of PDW.
- Knowledge about how to stay safe, healthy and happy and able to achieve their full potential.

### **Learning Objectives**

The depth of knowledge and learning objectives for our students will deepen as they go through the school, so that by year 11 they will know and understand:

- the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
- the rules and laws relating to drugs
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
- the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- the effects of drugs and students mental health and wellbeing

### **Keeping Safe**

As well as these areas of knowledge, our programme helps students to develop their personal and social skills to make informed decisions in order to keep themselves safe and healthy, including:

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- communicating effectively
- resisting pressures
- finding information, help and advice
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies
- developing self-awareness and self-esteem

### **Influences**

Grey Court School will provide students with the opportunity to:

- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, challenge stereotypes
- explore media and social influences on them and those around them.

## **Staff with responsibility for drugs education**

The Drug Education programme is managed through the Personal Development and Wellbeing (PDW) coordinator role, which includes the monitoring and assessment of the school provision and forms part of cross curricular education.

Any drug related incidents are referred to the Headteacher and Associate Headteachers for Safeguarding and Behaviour.

## **PROGRAMME DELIVERY**

The Drug Education programme is delivered to all students as part of their PDW programme and as part of the science curriculum. It is coordinated and planned by the PDW coordinator to ensure all students receive key elements. The quality of delivery is monitored through lesson observations as part of routine staff appraisal procedures.

Outside agencies are also used on occasion to bring new dimensions to the programme. Contributors include youth workers, substance misuse team, school nurses and other health care professionals such as specialist drug agencies, the police and theatre-in-education groups.

### **a. Working with outside agencies**

All external contributors are fully aware of the school's values and approach to drug education, the drug and other relevant policies, including those covering confidentiality, disclosure and child protection, to ensure that their approach is consistent with that of the school. When negotiating the services of an outside agency the schools will ensure the agency knows:

- the desired learning outcomes, before deciding
- who is best able to help achieve them
- that the external contribution is integrated into the school's programme, rather than being an isolated event
- that as competent educators and facilitators they do not provide input outside their area of expertise
- where possible, students are involved in the preparatory and follow-up work,
- the content of lessons is to be negotiated to ensure that it meets the needs of students and is consistent with the overall aims of the drug education programme
- the contribution is grounded in a student-centred approach to learning, which may involve assessing educational needs

### **b. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme**

The programme is monitored by:

- Heads of Year and the PDW coordinator.
- Lesson observations are regularly completed and work scrutiny observation.
- Students evaluate at the end of each PDW day.
- Informal staff evaluation and feedback to the coordinator

### **c. Staff support and training**

The PDW coordinator should receive training on the latest drugs information and support services and will be available for staff support. Resources used in PDW lessons are provided by the PDW coordinator. In addition talks are given to students and staff by the school liaison police officers or similar professionals in the field. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gettington.org.uk/services/kingston/afc-young-people-s-drug-and-alcohol-service>

## **PROCEDURES AT GREY COURT SCHOOL**

### **a. Health and safety**

- It is the policy of Grey Court School that no illegal drugs should be brought onto the premises at any time or in any circumstance by any member of the school community.
- Alcohol consumption during the working school day by any member of the school community whilst on school premises, or during a lunch or other break on or off premises if the individual is attending or working that day, is not acceptable.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on school premises.

### **b. Identifying students at risk**

- Understandably some students are more at risk of drug misuse than others due to a range of factors including home circumstances and relationships within peer networks. Every attempt is made to support vulnerable students including measures to help identify those at risk early and to put into place pastoral and educational support.
- At risk students can be identified by staff, the police or by Social Services. All staff pass on any information to the DSL or DDSL in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. They will ensure a referral to SPA (single point of access) by the Student Support Officers.

### **c. Being a healthy school**

It is our intention to promote wellbeing and a healthy lifestyle at every opportunity. Our policy on drugs is part of this. All students and staff will be made aware of the key elements of this policy:

- the consequences of involvement in drug misuse and the action the school may take
- what to do if they find drugs, medicine bottles, syringes, broken glass
- school policy on drug misuse - this would include bullying, incitement to experiment, possession, supplying, use on school premises - as appropriate to the school/age-group
- disclosure, limits to confidentiality and referral to other agencies when students' welfare is at risk
- medicine taken by students must be labelled and supported with parental permission. This is stored and supervised by the Medical Officer.

## **DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

### **a. Students in possession or believed to be in possession of unauthorised drugs**

In line with our Behaviour Policy any student found to be in possession or believed to be in possession of any unauthorised drug (including medicines, cigarettes or alcohol) will be asked to surrender the item which will then be confiscated pending further inquiry. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug it will be held safely within the school. Information will then be passed on to the parents or carers of that student.

In the event of the school rules in relation to drugs being broken, disciplinary procedures will follow. Each incident will be dealt with on a case by case basis and could potentially lead to exclusion and permanent exclusion.

When a student is found or believed to be in possession of an illegal drug they will be asked to surrender the substance in the presence of member of the Senior Leadership Team. Information will then be passed on to the parents or carers of that young person and the police.

If there are any circumstances that indicate a young person may be under the influence of a substance, or is having any kind of difficulty or reaction to a drug, medical assistance will be sought immediately. In such an event the welfare of the young person is paramount and will take precedence over other enquiry.

### **b. A student refusing to comply when asked to surrender a substance**

When a student is asked to surrender an item and refuses to comply, staff can insist that they do so. The Headteacher is authorised to carry out a search of property without the person's consent.

Please see the school Search Policy.

### **c. Drug related equipment on school premises**

The range of items that may be found are very wide and could include:

- Empty alcohol cans/bottles
- Hand rolling papers – especially those with torn pack covers
- Empty 'baggies'
- Empty 'screws' or paper packets
- Cigarette stubs
- Vape pens and E-cigarettes
- Joint roaches
- Needles
- Syringes
- Bundles of spent matches
- Burnt tin foil strips or squares, etc.
- NOS canisters

Staff and students need to be aware of the procedures for safe disposal of these items. All of them, including alcohol cans/bottles and cigarette ends, should be left for the site manager to dispose of safely. The site manager will be aware of the need to dispose of any items posing a serious health risk e.g. discarded sharps etc. in secure purpose made containers.

Where drug related materials are found in an area where there is possible access to members of the public, such as the car park, the Police may be notified or the item simply disposed of. Where an item is found in an area of the school where it would seem likely that it was left by a member of the school, the Headteacher will be informed and will act according to the seriousness of the threat to student welfare posed by the item or items. This may include a notice in assembly or an alert to form tutors to report anyone looking sleepy or acting foolishly after the lunch break. More seriously it may involve the Headteacher inviting the Police into the school to carry out an investigation.

#### **d. Drug related incidents involving adults**

Where an adult is or seems to be under the influence of a drug, most commonly alcohol, they will be asked to leave school premises immediately. Anyone who believes an adult is under the influence of a drug should not deal with this alone but should make contact with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. When an adult has been asked to leave and refuses the Police will be called.

If the adult is in charge of a child or young person they may be invited to sit and discuss how they intend to get home. A student or dependent child will not be left in the care of someone under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Staff should treat this as a safeguarding incident and notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Vicki Price or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Sharon Mercer. It may be necessary to discuss alternatives with the student – a friend they could stay with, a relative who could be called to help etc. Any such incident will remain within the boundaries of the confidentiality code of the school.

If a member of staff is considered to be acting in a manner which suggests that they are under the influence of drugs or medicines they will be taken away from contact with students immediately and asked to leave the school premises safely as soon as they can.

On returning to their role they will need to be interviewed by the Headteacher to determine the best course of action for the individual and the school. This may result in disciplinary action and/or referral for support and treatment.

#### **e. Police involvement**

Incidents involving illegal drugs will be reported to the Police. The School Liaison Officer is involved and/or consulted in all matters.

#### **f. Involvement of parents/carers**

Parents/Carers are informed of any incidents or suspected incidents of Drug involvement. They are encouraged to discuss the issues within the family unit and to involve their GP or local support agencies if appropriate.

#### **g. The role of Governors**

Governors are informed of incidents involving illegal drugs.

## **LINKED POLICIES**

- Safeguarding and Child protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- RSE and Health Education Policy