

# STOKE NEWINGTON SCHOOL

## Drugs Policy

- Drugs are substances that alter the mind or body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs.
- We believe that the possession and use of drugs or paraphernalia associated with drugs in school, during the school day, on a school visit or while on the way home by any pupil is inappropriate.
- All drugs covered by this policy are not permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises during the school day, on a school visit or while on the way home.
- Responses **will** include both disciplinary and counselling approach.

### Drugs Education

- This school provides a planned drug education curriculum for all pupils within Life Skills, which aims to equip all students with the knowledge and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs.
- We believe that those students who are misusing illegal drugs or volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage.
- The Pastoral system will support this work through appropriate tutor/assembly time discussions.

### Disclosure & Confidentiality

Students need to feel able to talk in confidence to members of staff about drug-related problems without fear of being judged or being told off.

When a student discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use:

- Staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the pupils' welfare.
- Staff must say that they will not be able to promise complete confidentiality.
- The YCC and form tutor will be informed. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people, including the YCC, form tutor, and the Leadership Team.
- Any student who is discovered taking or having taken drugs will be referred to SSN in order to allocate appropriate targeted intervention (this may be through an external partner).

### Managing drug related incidents:

See table 1.

### Guidance for YCCs and LT:

#### Searching pupils

If a pupil is believed to be in possession of a controlled substance "the law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug".

- Normally staff members do not have the right to search the student unless they have his/her consent. Students can be asked to surrender the substance or turn out their pockets. This should always be done with a witness present.
- Should students refuse to consent to a search, staff should consider contacting parents in order to discuss the situation. LT should be involved at this stage.

#### Dealing with illegal substances

- **Storage:** If the police are to be involved, the substance should be packaged with date, time and place of finding noted on the pack, witnessed by a colleague.

- **Disposal:** witnessed being incinerated or flushed away. If the police are to be involve, the substance should handed to police.

**Police involvement**

- In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school and not a police matter. However, it is the policy of this school to contact the attached police officer where an incident has involved illegal substances.

**Contacting the police:** In all cases, guidance should be sought from the Headteacher.

**Further Guidance:**

**Parental involvement**

- Parents will be contacted if their child is caught breaking the rules on drugs.
- Opportunities will be made available for parents to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health related issues.

**Administering medicines**

- The Headteacher will make the decision for staff to administer medicines.
- All medicines will be stored securely in the office with access by first aider and LT.

**Training and support for staff**

- The Head of Life Skills has responsibility for ensuring drug education within the curriculum.
- This policy is reviewed annually and in light of any incidents that occur related to drugs.

**Chair's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name: Caroline Stagg**

**Drugs Policy Review Date - Summer 2013**