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Name of policy: DRUG POLICY

REVISION HISTORY

	Date
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE	
RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY	
NEXT REVIEW	

Head Teacher _____ Date _____

Chair of Governors _____ Date _____

Department for Education and Association of Chief police Officers drug advice for schools September 2012

Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies.

Church Hill School drug policy has to consider Safeguarding policy and therefore reflect the advice from the Department for Education and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Church Hill School recognises that students are of primary school age and the guidance will mainly apply to older students in secondary education. However unlikely, it is prudent to publish the guidance in case of any unforeseen eventuality relating to drugs.

Duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing

Schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the **Government's Drug Strategy 2010** ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

1. Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information.
2. Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation.
3. Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

Have a designated, senior member of staff with responsibility for the drug policy and all drug issues within the school.

Establish relationships with young people's services, health services and voluntary sector organisations to ensure support is available to pupils affected by drug misuse **(including parental drug or alcohol problems)**.

Dealing with drug related incidents

General power to confiscate Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. **If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.**

Involving parents and dealing with complaints

Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child. There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search.

Schools would normally inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.

Working with the Police

A senior member of staff who is responsible for the school's drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents. This approach should be updated as part of a regular review of the policy.

Legal drugs

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but schools 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.

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances should be included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Controlled drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- Store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff.
- Notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so, considering Safeguarding policy and working with other agencies.
- Record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- Inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil.
- **Identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and behaviour policy response.**

Drug Education

A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes, unless otherwise stated, those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

Scope

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

Rationale

The aim of the drug education programme at Church Hill is to give children the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions

Objectives

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- To promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.

Guidelines

At Church Hill, we use every opportunity to educate pupils so that they can make healthy choices by increasing their knowledge about substance use and misuse. The children are provided with accurate and age sensitive information to widen their understanding about health related issues. The objectives are fulfilled through the taught curriculum, particularly PSHE and Science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school liaises with other agencies, such as community police and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education. Visitors who support the school will be informed of the values held within this policy

Conclusion

A wide range of factors influence pupils, but we believe that honest and accurate education can play a key role in ensuring that they know the risks of drug taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Overview of teaching Drugs Education at Church Hill School

Year	Drugs Education
Reception	
1	
2	PSHE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What goes into my body• Medicines• Feeling ill, feeling better Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise that care needs to be taken with medicines
3	
4	PSHE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge about substances• Attitudes towards substances
5	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise some harmful effects of drugs
6	PSHE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge about substances• Attitudes towards substances• Skills in drug related situations