

# LAKESIDE SCHOOL

## DRUGS EDUCATION and SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

### Rationale

This policy is written in accordance with DfES Drugs: Guidance for Schools (Feb 2004)

This school is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and staff and we will work together with parents, carers and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs. The safeguarding of our pupils is of the highest priority. It does not condone the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco or the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its young people. The general ethos of the school will be to encourage pupils to make informed decisions in order to promote a healthy lifestyle. Great emphasis will be placed on developing inter-personal skills in order to equip young people to deal with challenging situations throughout life.

### Legal highs

There has been a change in law as respect to legal highs. The 'PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT' came in to force in May 2016. It is now illegal to supply any 'legal highs' for human consumption. The changes in law means it is now an **offence to Sell** or even **GIVE** psychoactive substances to anyone for **FREE**, even to **FRIENDS**. Punishments range from a prohibition notice, formal warning, to 7 years in prison.

### Definition – What is a Drug?

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way the body works.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

### AIMS

(To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school)

1. To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.

2. To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme within the school's PSHCE curriculum.
3. To enable staff to manage drugs on the school premises, with any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved.
4. Develop pupil's positive self-image and responsible behaviour concerning drugs.
5. Increase pupil awareness of the risks and legal aspects of drug taking.
6. Provide pupils with the opportunity to communicate their concerns, make informed choices and be safe.
7. The school will enable young people to identify sources of appropriate support and advice from within the school and outside agencies provided.
8. Staff will have access to appropriate training and development.

## **DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL**

'In School' is taken to mean on the school premises, including buildings and grounds. The school policy also applies to off site activities, visits and school trips. The policy also relates to pupils' use of premises and grounds beyond the school day. The school also acknowledges that where children are known drug users 'off site', an awareness is paramount in relation to supporting their school placement.

## **DRUGS IN SCHOOL**

1. If staff have any suspicion, information regarding drug abuse or find a pupil in possession or abusing drugs they will notify the Senior Management Team immediately.
2. Any drugs should be confiscated and stored securely in the school safe by that member of staff in a signed envelope with date and time. Caution should be taken by all staff if any equipment or drug taking paraphernalia is found/handled.
3. As soon as possible after notifying a member of the SMT, the member of staff should complete a drugs incident sheet and hand this to the DHT.
4. The HT will decide on the appropriate action and involvement of parents/guardians, police or external agencies as required.
5. A member of staff may search, in the presence of a witness, and subject to the HT's permission, a pupil's room, locker, school tray, bag and items of clothing not being worn, where they have reasonable cause to suspect it contains unlawful items including illegal drugs.
6. An 'intimate' search of the pupil (i.e. clothing being worn) **is not allowed**. If a pupil is suspected of concealing drugs, they will be encouraged to produce

these voluntarily. If a pupil refuses, the pupil's parents or the police may be called to deal with the situation.

7. The Deputy Head teacher is responsible for the coordination of the management of drug related incidents, including offering support and guidance to staff and pupils.

## **SANCTIONS AND SUPPORT**

In dealing with a child involved with drugs, the school has to consider the good of the whole school community as well as that of the individual.

1. Individual incidents will be dealt with according to the circumstances involved. Sanctions will be designed to ensure pupils' continued education and support.
2. Pupils and parents may be offered contact with relevant agencies offering support to young people with drug related problems if requested.
3. It is for the HT to decide, having regard to the DfE Exclusions Guidance, the school's behaviour policy, whether or not to exclude permanently for incidents connected with drug misuse. In line with Hampshire Children's Services advice, a permanent exclusion will not necessarily be appropriate in some cases. The HT will ensure that the course of action taken takes into account the needs of all individuals involved, both in terms of their educational and personal development and in terms of recognising that permanent exclusion may make a young person more vulnerable to exposure to drugs.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION**

Drug education in this school aims to enable all our pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills. It is an integral part of the Personal, Social and Citizen Programme and the Science curriculum in school. Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils. Outside agencies such as the Police, Careers Service, young people's drug and alcohol service and other professionals will be used to complement this programme. Staff will support work throughout school and the residential setting. Assembly, tutorial and PSHE time will be used in addition to informal discussion.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

The school will support staff with formal and on-going training to enable them to:

1. Recognise the signs and symptoms of substances and their abuse.
2. Be aware of the legal implications of drugs and their responsibilities.
3. Follow correct school procedures and policies.

## **RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES**

- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Storage and Administration of Medicines Policy.

## **Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluating**

The Governing Body will ensure that this policy is reviewed annually.

Evaluation will cover two areas:

- The effectiveness of the policy to assist pupils in resisting the lure of substance misuse.
- The effectiveness of the procedures and practises in place to deal with substance related incidents.