

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY



THE MARSH ACADEMY

AIM:

To ensure all students make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Deliver a planned, relevant and engaging drugs education programme suitable to the ages of the students which
 - a. responds to local issues;
 - b. covers the use of medicines, solvent (volatile substance) misuse, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs;
 - c. which provides progression, identifies outcomes;
 - d. and is regularly reviewed, with student feedback and evaluation.
2. To provide a clear message to the School Community about possession, use and supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs at School, on trips and visits and on the way to and from school.
3. To implement strategies to identify and support students for whom drugs are a concern, with a clear focus on safety (through curriculum, pastoral support, referral to other services).
4. To train staff to be confident and skilled in addressing drugs issues and are clear about procedures regarding drug incidents.
5. To enable staff, students and parents to access to up-to-date information & sources of help and to develop a partnership approach with relevant agencies.

PROCEDURE:

Principal:

- Agree a definition of what constitutes a drug incident along with the normal responses and procedures for managing drug incidents.
- Oversee the management of drug incidents that could lead to exclusion.
- Define procedures for legitimate use and safe storage of drugs on school site (alcohol, use of hazardous materials).
- Make explicit the procedures for searching students, personal property and school property for illegal drugs.
- Clarify the procedures for taking temporary possession of, holding and disposing of suspected illegal drugs & drug paraphernalia.
- Publish guidelines for use of drugs by staff and students at school and on school trips and for managing parents/carers under the influence of drugs.
- Provide confidentiality guidelines for staff.
- Ensure there is staffing available to develop range of responses to drug incidents, including development of specialist teachers (through national professional development programme for teachers of PSHE).
- Maintain a Drugs Incident File and use it to monitor effectiveness of school work
- Ensure that there are links to other policies (SRE, CP, PSHE and Citizenship, Equal Opps and Racial Equality, Health and Safety)

Informing and Involving Students

- The Leadership Team to share responsibility for drug education, overseeing its planning and co-ordination.
- The Senior Pastoral Leader to ensure that students in vulnerable groups are accessing their entitlement and enabled to make their views known.
- The Leadership Team to plan for the delivery of the drugs education programme through planning and reviewing the Science, PSHE and Citizenship schemes of work.
- All staff to provide a safe learning environment in which discussion and sharing of views is encouraged

Responding to Incidents and Situations

- Leadership Team to develop and implement a range of responses to be employed in the resolution of drugs incidents:
 - Counselling and the development of support groups.
 - Access to experts through Youth Service, Social Services, Connexions, the PCT and YOT;
 - Internal and external exclusion, alternative programmes and managed moves.
- The Senior Pastoral Leader to ensure clear procedures and arrangements for those requiring regular medication.
- The Senior Pastoral Leader to ensure that her colleagues are aware of and implement Health and Safety procedures re use of legal hazardous substances.
- All staff to refer drugs related concerns to Team Leader.

Informing and Involving Parents

- The Leadership Team to ensure that parents have access to the Policy and Drugs Education programme and are aware of procedures for dealing with drugs related incidents.
- The Leadership Team to ensure that parents are made aware of drug issues involving their son / daughter.
- The Senior Pastoral Leader to ensure that parents are informed of areas of support beyond school.

Supporting and Developing Staff

- Leadership Team to oversee induction of all new staff and to identify areas for further INSET through Performance Management procedures.
- The Personnel Manager to enable staff to access support / advice from police and outside agencies as appropriate.
- All staff to consider their training and development needs.