



Drugs Education Policy

Chauncy School

March 2018

Chauncy School Drug Education Policy

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. It applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits, trips, fieldwork, residential etc.

Drug Education:

The school defines the term "drug" as any substance that is taken to change the way you feel, think or behave and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over the counter and prescribed medicines as well as illegal substances.

All staff share responsibility for drug education and understand the importance of drug education in enabling students to make informed choices about their health and wellbeing and must set a good example. The policy applies in and out school and beyond, wherever students are within the care of school staff. Parents will be informed of students' behaviour where appropriate and if there is a risk to the child appropriate action will be taken.

We aim to achieve the following:

- Enable students to develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and make informed choices
- Provide accurate information about drugs and the effects of their use
- Ensure that we respond to the changing needs of students
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- Enable students to identify where help and support can be found
- Understand how the school will respond to drug use and misuse

Drug Education:

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

- A co-ordinated and consistent approach to drug education through PSHE sessions and the core curriculum as appropriate
- An age appropriate drug education programme that includes information about drug services and helplines.
- Recognising the position adults have as role models
- Ensuring that drug education co-ordinator and governor responsible for drugs have received appropriate training and aware of up to date information
- Through the use of appropriate outside agencies, including the School Nurse Team, Youth Connexions and Future Hope, Children's Services for example
- Reviewing and evaluating drug education with staff, students and parents regularly

The Headteacher and the SLT have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are fulfilled including appropriate drug education content and response to drug related incidents.

Statutory duty of the school:

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

Response to drug related incidents:

At Chauncy we recognise that legal and illegal substances are available and that some young people may choose to experiment and use them. Young people who take risks with substances often do so because of something else that is happening in their lives; for example bereavement, the breakdown of a relationship, bullying etc. At Chauncy we bear these in mind when dealing with drug related incidents, including students that appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, while at the same time being guided by the view that all non-medical drugs and misuse of medical drugs, legal and illegal substances are unacceptable in or around the school.

At Chauncy we recognise the role of parents when dealing with drug related incidents and we will involve parents as detailed below. We also understand that finding out your child has been involved in a drug related incident can be a shock and that parents need support. Guidance for parents including where to get help can be found at **MENTOR:** <http://www.mentoruk.org.uk>

The Headteacher and Drug Education Co-ordinator will be aware of the protocols surrounding the safe disposal of drug paraphernalia and screening for substance related needs. It is important that staff know how to respond when a drug related incident occurs. The response to dealing with illegal drugs has been based on guidance and advice provided by the police.

- School identifies student in possession of a controlled drug
- Drug education co-ordinator and Headteacher informed
- Drugs seized at earliest opportunity by SLT with appropriate support
- Student taken to designated area
- Parents notified and asked to attend
- Police contacted to advise on the most appropriate response regarding seizing the drug and arranging safe disposal
- Record information in the Record of Concern section of BehaviourWatch
- Parents wherever possible to be present during police attendance, arrest and bail (where not possible the school to act as an appropriate adult, but only on school premises)
- Students under the influence will not be sent away from school on their own and will be appropriately supervised until a family member can collect them
- Appropriate action will be sanctioned (see appropriate sanctions below)

In addition the school will seek to deal with the matter from a school perspective. Appropriate sanctions may be used in response to the incident and these may include internal exclusion, fixed term or permanent exclusion from the school. Drug related incidents will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young persons' life and not in isolation. Where appropriate the Families First Assessment process will be considered to help assess the needs of the student

and to help decide who to involve.

Responses to incidents relating to cigarettes and alcohol will be dealt with as follows:

Alcohol

- Alcohol to be taken from the student
- Student taken to designated area
- Parents/Carers notified at earliest opportunity and asked to attend
- Students under the influence of alcohol will not be sent away from school on their own and will be appropriately supervised
- Appropriate action will be sanctioned (see above)
- Where appropriate the Families First Assessment process will be considered to help assess the support needs of the student and to help decide who to involve.

Cigarettes

- Cigarettes to be taken from the student
- Student will be offered counselling and support
- Parents informed
- Two after school detentions issued by a member of SLT

If a student seeks to disclose a drug related incident to a member of staff, they must be made aware that no promise of confidentiality can be made given that there might be risk to themselves or other students in line with the Safeguarding Policy.

Support, advice and guidance for staff, students and parents can be found at:

FUTURE HOPE: Telephone: 07531 875124 E-mail: info@future-hope.org.uk
Website: <http://www.future-hope.org.uk/>

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00 or www.talktofrank.com

MENTOR: <http://mentoruk.org.uk/>

ADASH: (Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Service for Herts)
Telephone: 01992 531917 M: 07770 537227 F: 01992 531918
E-mail: a-dash@hpft.nhs.uk

Policy Reviewed by: Mr S W Walton (Deputy Headteacher)

Date established by Governing body: 14th March 2018

Date for full implementation: 14th March 2018

Date for review: March 2019