



MARATHON SCIENCE SCHOOL



Substance Abuse Policy

Reviewed on: 15th September 2021

Next Review: 14th September 2022

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Headteacher

1 Introduction

This policy recognises that drugs and substance abuse exists and to reduce it depends on the co-operation of students, parents and staff.

- We, the students, parents and staff of this school, condone neither the misuse of drugs, alcohol or dangerous substances by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- We are committed to the health and safety of our members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- We acknowledge the importance of the pastoral role in the welfare of our members, and through the ethos of the school, will seek to persuade those in need of support to come forward.

2 Our Aims

We believe and support the following aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- To enable members to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims will be fulfilled through aspects of the curriculum both taught and hidden. We deliver that taught curriculum mainly through PSHEE, science and English but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other subjects.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the community police, social services and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Visitors who support the school will be informed of the values held within this policy. The school will ensure that all staff dealing with substance abuse issues are adequately trained. The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation both in the long term and on a daily basis.

3 Action That Will Be Taken

Advertising of illegal substances is not acceptable. Articles of clothing, bags or other objects that advertise such substances are not allowed on the school premises and will be confiscated and returned to parents.

In instances involving tobacco, parents will be informed and detentions will be given.

In instances involving all other substances misuse or carrying such substances on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know the student well, the following action will be taken.

- Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person.
- If these activities have occurred on the premises then the school will inform the parents.
- If the student is considered to be at risk then the appropriate authority will be informed.
- There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to offer relevant support and advice.

Where it is suspected that dangerous substances are on the premises, details regarding those involved and further information, will be passed to the police liaison officer. The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other members of the school and the local community. Any student selling dangerous substances on the premises will be permanently excluded. The school and parents working together to support the young person involved in substance misuse will always include:

- A period of exclusion if the incident occurred on the premises.
- A discussion with staff, parents and students on the issues involved.
- An agreement to seek counselling and guidance for the student and the family.
- A planned reintegration into the school to include a negotiated contract. If the student or parents do not agree with these actions then the Headteacher may ask the Management Committee to make the exclusion permanent.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will seek to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

4 Guidance For Staff

When a student discloses substance misuse off the premises, the staff member will use their discretion to decide on the action and will involve the head of year or a senior member of staff.

When a student discloses substance misuse on the premises, the staff member will inform the Headteacher or a senior member of staff. Where staff discover substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation, they should note the two circumstances in which substances may be removed from either place or person.

The following guidelines should be observed at all times:

- Remove substances and record the time, place and circumstances.
- Do not investigate the nature of the substance, but do record a full description of it.
- When possible have the recordings countersigned by a witness.
- Do NOT keep the substance on your person or in a safe place; to do so may put you at risk.

- Take the substance immediately to a member of the senior staff.
- In the presence of a member of the senior staff place the substance in a suitable sealed container.
- All present should sign the package.
- An official report should be completed, recording all the circumstances of the findings.
- The Headteacher can choose to arrange for the police to remove the substance or may choose to dispose of it in an appropriate way.
- In the event of discovery of any equipment associated with substance abuse, the same procedure should be followed.

5 Smoking

Students are forbidden to bring cigarettes, e- cigarettes, lighters or matches onto the school premises. Students are also forbidden to smoke on the way to or from school, while wearing school uniform, or on school visits. If found smoking or found in the possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, tobacco or matches.

6 Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol on to the premises or to drink alcohol on the way to or from school. If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is caught in possession of alcohol, the student's parents/carers will be contacted. Depending on the severity of the incident the student can expect to suffer a sanction such as a fixed-term exclusion.

7 Drugs

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of an illegal drug/legal high or is caught in possession of an illegal drug/legal high (or any form of drug paraphernalia) parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the headteacher (or designated member of staff). However, we reserve the right, in accordance with the current legal guidance, to exclude any student in possession of illegal drugs/legal highs, even for a first or one-off offence.

8 Legal highs

These relate to all 'psychoactive' drugs, including 'legal highs', and can be described using three main categories: stimulants, 'downers' or sedatives, psychedelics or hallucinogens. They are

substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Legal highs will be dealt with at Marathon School as a prohibited substance.

9 Medicines and Legal Medicinal Drugs

Students are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into school unless they are for medication. Prescribed medicines must have a valid date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage.