

Drugs Policy

The Fortismere Drugs policy has been developed after careful consideration of advice issued by the Department for Education and the Association of Chief Police Officers. Furthermore, Fortismere has sought advice from the Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Officer.

The school believes that drug misuse is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. There is strong evidence of the harmful effects of certain illegal drugs upon the health and social lives of those who use them. The school works hard to promote an environment where students are able to make informed decisions relating to their health, safety and well-being.

The school regards the use of drugs in school as a child protection issue. Students involved in drugs may have a harmful influence upon some of the more vulnerable students. The school has a duty of care to take whatever measures it can within its power to protect students from the use of drugs, from being offered drugs or sold drugs and from the example of those who use drugs.

We define 'drug' as a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes drugs which are controlled/illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, new psychoactive substances, legal highs, over-the-counter and prescription medicines used improperly, volatile substances solvents. The Head reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur, based on the definition of a drug above.

School policy statement

The school's policy is that no controlled drugs are allowed on the school premises at any time. Any student who uses, is in possession of, supplies, shows intent to supply, offers or otherwise obtains drugs at school, on a school related activity, in the vicinity of the school, or in another location where it nevertheless has an impact on students for whom the school is responsible, will be subject to serious disciplinary action, up to and including permanent exclusion.

Supplying or intent to supply means selling, sharing, offering or giving drugs to another person. It does not have to involve the exchange of money or financial gain.

Possessing drugs means being found with drugs or having control of drugs whether they belong to the individual or not.

This policy applies to all students and staff working at or for the school.

In order to maintain a safe environment and to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community, the school will:

- Work closely with local partners, such as other schools, the local authority, the police and other organisations to develop and share good practice in relation to drugs education, awareness and prevention.
- Provide information and support to those affected by their own or other's drug issues.
- Encourage the co-operation of parents and carers in combatting drugs and their illicit use.
- Provide a programme of drugs education to enable students to make healthy and informed choices.
- Aim to identify students may be at risk of drug misuse.

Drugs Education

The Drugs Education Programme is an important part of the school curriculum and an integral part of the citizenship and well-being programme.

The drugs education programme aims to:

- Enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- Provide accurate and up to date information about drugs.
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance abuse.
- Widen understanding about health and related social issues.
- Enable young people to identify sources of information and appropriate support.
- Promote the advantages of drug free lifestyles.
- Dissuade students from experimental and recreational drug use.

The drugs education programme is jointly co-ordinated by the Head of Citizenship, the PSHE co-ordinator and the Science co-ordinator, who are responsible for the planning, implementation and review.

Delivery is through:

- Planned aspects within the Citizenship, PHSE and Science curricula and by addressing spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in other national curriculum subjects.

Teaching approaches:

- A variety of approaches which cater for students' different learning styles are used to ensure students are actively engaged in their learning, such as discussion, group work, drama and other active learning techniques. Students are taught in sets, mixed gender and single sex groupings.

Staff training:

- Delivered to staff and on-going CPD to Citizenship /PSHE teachers

Dealing with drug related incidents

Incidents involving drugs will be considered individually and dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour for learning policy. Permanent exclusion will not be an automatic response to a drug related incident. The Headteacher will balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community. The over-riding concern will be the protection of students. Students who have supplied or shown intent to supply drugs to others on school premises or in the vicinity of the school, save in the most exceptional circumstances, will be permanently excluded from school.

The school has a legitimate interest in the activities of students outside school where their actions may have a detrimental effect upon other students of the school inside school. The school will consider that a student who supplies or shows intent to supply drugs outside school may represent a real threat to the welfare and well-being of the school community and may consider permanent exclusion.

Parents and carers

The school is aware that the primary role in young people's drugs education lies with their parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with parents and carers through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective the school will:

- Inform parents and carers about the school's drugs policy and drugs education programme and encourage them to get involved.
- Endeavour to help parents develop greater understanding of the problems of drug misuse by holding information and awareness evenings, arranging meetings to discuss the drugs education programme and answering any questions that parents may have about drugs education.
- Take seriously any issue that parents/carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school.

Outside agencies

The school will encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to our students. In particular, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Police Schools Officer, Insight and The Amy Winehouse Foundation. The school nursing service can also provide advice and support to our students, staff and parents.

Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that students, staff and parents/carers are informed about the Drugs policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy.

Governors

Cara Williams is the PSHE /Citizenship link governor.

The Curriculum Committee monitors the Drug policy and reports its findings and any recommendations to the full governing body.

Monitoring and review

The drugs education programme will be monitored by the relevant Assistant Headteachers, Head of Citizenship, the PSHEe Co-ordinator and the Head of Science.

Recording of Incidents is implemented through the Behaviour for learning policy. Heads of Colleges and Assistant Headteachers monitor trends and patterns and liaise with LINC and the PSHE co-ordinator where there are any concerns with drugs use amongst students.

Confidentiality

The school will provide drugs education in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a student makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in drug activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and may deal with it as a matter of child protection in line with the school's Safeguarding policy.

Agreed by governors June 2014

Review date: June 2016