

Alcohol, Drugs and Solvents Policy for Students

Introduction

Aims and objectives of the policy for children

The Blue Coat School believes that drug education is most successfully delivered as part of a Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum as well as where relevant, National Curriculum Science lessons. The School believes the most successful method of educational programme is to emphasise information and social skills approaches, such as peer resistance, building strategies to say no to drug use, as well as strategies to improve self esteem and self awareness. The purpose of the learning programme is to impart knowledge and skills to enable sensible choices to be made.

The school therefore aims to:

- Provide accurate information about legal and illegal substances and increase the understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of legal and illegal substances.
- Promote and encourage life skills particularly those related to healthy living and promote and encourage self esteem to help students make decisions about their health and development and to foster responsible behaviour.
- Cover many elements of Citizenship as stated by National Curriculum Guidance.
- Deliver drugs education in line with the relevant Education Acts and in particular the guidance contained in 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children: Young people and drugs' (2005).
- Involve the parents as and when appropriate in the School's drugs education programme having regard for parents who take drugs other than on medical prescription or advice.
- Reflect equal opportunities in line with the Blue Coat School policy.

Points of note

- Drugs education is delivered at the School within a framework which encourages equal respect for all groups of society and all religious beliefs and practices.
- Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and reminded of their responsibility to their family, the School and the wider community.
- There is a separate policy to be followed with regard to staff and adults entitled '**Alcohol and Drugs Policy for Staff and Adults.**'
- There is also a separate policy to be followed with regards to staff administering medicine at the request of parents entitled '**Policy for the Administration of Medicines.**'

The Drugs Education procedure

The drugs education programme will be delivered through PSHE National Curriculum, Science and by the use of outside agencies in Years 7-13

The resources used by the School include, text books, in house programmes, videos, ICT, Curriculum Guidance and Health Education materials from outside agencies.

For **Key Stage 3** the drugs education programme will be delivered under the following headings:

- Issues around drugs including information about Alcohol, Caffeine, Cannabis, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Nicotine, Paracetamol and Solvents.

For **Key Stage 4** the drugs education programme will be delivered under the following headings:

- Drugs; facts, choices and consequences about, and of, smoking, alcohol and solvent abuse.

For **Key Stage 5** the drugs education programme will be delivered via the provision of guidance and information under the following headings:

- The dangers of drug availability in social situations.
- The dangers of mixing drugs including alcohol.
- Issues around why young people who are 16 – 18 might find saying 'no' hard.
- Strategies to resist pressure to experiment.

These programmes are designed in order to:

- Provide relevant information that does not assume ignorance but builds on existing knowledge and experience and is relevant to the stage of development of the students.
- Develop skills that enable the student to take control of their own lives.
- Promote positive attitudes and values about health and the quality of life in order that young people will make informed choices and develop sustainable healthy lifestyles.

Outside agencies

The School on occasions may work with outside agencies to support and assist teachers with the delivery of the programme.

These outside agencies may include:

- The Education Welfare Service, through the Education Welfare Officer responsible for the School

- Social Services Directorate, through the local district office
- The students' own general practitioner
- The Merseyside Drugs Council
- Streetwise
- Merseyside Police.

Responsibilities

If a teacher has concerns regarding a student they should inform the Headteacher or a member of the Child Protection Team (Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteachers) immediately. The Headteacher, once informed, will then decide on the appropriate action of each case. The following are the procedures to be followed by staff in specific instances.

Tobacco possession/consumption	-	Head of Year to confiscate, Deputy Head/Senior member of staff to inform parents and arrange to meet with parents.
Tobacco selling	-	Parents to meet with Senior member of staff. A period of exclusion would be applied as a sanction.
Alcohol possession/selling	-	Confiscation, parents to meet with senior member of staff. A period of exclusion would be applied as a sanction.
Alcohol intoxication	-	Administer First Aid if necessary, inform parents who must collect student immediately. Parents to meet with Senior member of staff. A period of exclusion would be considered and applied at the discretion of the Headteacher.
Solvent possession, consumption - or selling	-	As above for alcohol.
Drugs possession/consumption	-	Confiscation and administer first aid if necessary. Inform parents. Senior member of staff to inform Police. Three day exclusion subject to precise circumstances. This period of exclusion may increase at the discretion of the Headteacher.
Dealing or supplying of drugs	-	Confiscation. Inform parents.

Senior member of staff to inform Police. Long term or permanent exclusion. School exclusions policy to be followed in this instance.

If it is deemed inappropriate to re-instate the student, the school will assist in finding an alternative school/placement, in accordance with the School's exclusion policy.

Counselling will be offered to all students involved in any of the above. Members of staff will not give guarantees of confidentiality as they are not protected by the law. Confidentiality may be impossible because students may be informed of drugs related incidents by other means that are beyond the School's control.

Point of note concerning prescribed drugs/medicines

The School has a procedure for administering prescribed drugs/medicines. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to notify the School of the medicine to be administered by staff or the student themselves under the supervision of a member of staff.

Advice to staff when dealing with a person who is suspected to be under the influence of a drug/substance

The following guidelines should be followed:

1. Firstly, stay calm yourself –don't panic.
2. If the student is unconscious place in the recovery position, if it is considered safe to do so. Immediately telephone the emergency services using 999 and then contact school first aider and SLT.
3. If unconscious but intoxicated remain with the student and arrange for SLT to be contacted. If a student is unconscious for more than five minutes or thought to have been unconscious for that long, an ambulance must be called immediately in all cases. Dial 999.
4. Place the casualty face downwards in the recovery position and check the student's airway.
5. Assist the casualty in breathing by loosening clothing. Do not give anything to drink.
6. Inform medical first aider in school and acquire assistance and support.
7. Check the casualty's breathing regularly.
8. Collect any evidence of what has been taken e.g. tablets, syringes etc.
9. Wait for the ambulance to arrive providing re-assurance if the casualty comes around.

Contact Details

The Education Welfare Service

Nick Evans 0151 706 9747

Social Services Directorate

Careline Childrens Services 0151 233 3700

The Merseyside Drugs Council

Skelton House, Lathom Road, Liverpool, L36 9XS
0151 489 3005

Streetwise

admin@streetwisenorth.org.uk

Quick Guide to the Alcohol and Drugs Procedure

The drugs education programme will be delivered in the following way:

- Key stage 3 – PSHE, issues around drugs, alcohol and solvents.
- Key stage 4 – PSHE, facts, choices and consequences relating to smoking, alcohol and solvent abuse.
- Key stage 5 – Dangers of availability in social situations and dangers of mixing drugs including alcohol.

If a teacher has a concern regarding a student they should inform the Headteacher immediately or a member of the Child Protection Team.

Sanctions appropriate in various circumstances can range from:

- Confiscation
- Notification to Parents
- Meeting with Parents and Senior Members of Staff
- Informing Police
- Short term or long term/permanent exclusion

In all cases this will be at the discretion of a Designated Senior Member of Staff or the Headteacher.