Drugs Policy

Ranelagh School

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Ranelagh School Vision

Though we are many, we are one body

Following the ministry of Jesus, we empower all to use their gifts in faithful service. We inspire and encourage each individual to develop and nurture unique skills, interests and talents, in order that they can flourish. Our school is a unifying heartbeat, enabling everyone to feel welcomed and valued as members of our community.

Rationale

As a Church of England school we recognise the importance of educating for life in all its fullness. As part of our commitment to the nurture of wisdom, hope, community and dignity, we understand that the development of students' ability to exercise self-control; to make confident, informed choices in and out of the classroom, are fundamental to enabling them to thrive and excel.

Aims of this policy

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

Policy context

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools* (DfE-00001-2012) which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.

The drugs education of students takes into account the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order, the non-statutory framework for PSHEE at Key Stages 3 and 4 and the statutory Citizenship Programme of Study at Key Stages 3 and 4.

Other related policies and documents include

- Ethos of the School
- PSHE and Citizenship Policies

- Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- School Visits
- Medical Booklet
- a letter about the use of medication in school
- the school's Code of Conduct.

Where and to whom the policy applies

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school. The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". Here, "drugs" and "drug education" is used to refer to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- all drugs paraphernalia including; pipes, cigarette papers, filters, grinders etc.

The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in Ranelagh School is not acceptable. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students.

Drugs Education

Aims of Drug Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention.
The following aims of drug education at Ranelagh will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about
  - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
  - the rules and laws relating to drugs
  - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
  - local and national use
  - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
  - the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including
  - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- communicating effectively
- resisting pressures
- finding information, help and advice
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies
- developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves

- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
- To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including Talk To FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and vaping), local youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education

Management of drug-related incidents

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity;
- involvement in 'county line' or gang-related drug issues

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

(i) Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.

(ii) The Headteacher or an available member of SLT will be informed of the situation immediately.

(iii) Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or a member of SLT as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.

(iv) The Headteacher or a member of SLT will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.

(v) Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender

of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. *Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93)*

(vi) Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there.

(vii) If something illegal, or of concern is discovered then parents and carers will be notified by the school.

(viii) Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated.
If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.

(ix) A detailed record of the incident will be made on CPOMS, as per the school procedures.

(x) The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with them, as per the Behaviour Policy

Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.
The school will also be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as Childrens Social Care and Youth Service

Ranelagh is a non-smoking non-vaping school for all staff, students and visitors.