



THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL

'...to be a school which inspires and encourages the highest achievement'

POLICY WITH REGARD TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Review Date: Summer term 2017

Responsibility: Headteacher, Pastoral Deputy and SALT Committee

Review Period: Biennial

THIS POLICY WILL HELP THE SCHOOL TO FULFIL ITS AIMS BY:

1. enabling pupils to acquire knowledge and to develop skills to the fullest possible extent
2. developing lively, inquiring minds which are capable of independent thought
3. helping all pupils prepare for adult life

THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY WILL BE TO PROMOTE:

- an understanding of the physical, emotional and social risks of both infrequent, recreational and/or habitual substance abuse
- a structure for progression within the PSHCE programme in all years in respect of teaching about substance abuse and to support open and informed discussion about relevant and related issues.
- an awareness of the avenues of support available in school and in the community
- consistency of approach in conjunction with other schools.

TO FULFIL THESE AIMS THE SCHOOL'S APPROACH WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- To define 'substance' as alcohol, tobacco, medicines, drugs, caffeine, electronic cigarettes and solvents and/or anything the school considers to be a substance detrimental to the wellbeing of pupils, staff or other stakeholders of the school.
- To define the area within which the school's policies and procedures will be effective as the school's grounds and buildings (including the immediate vicinity beyond the school grounds), on journeys to and from school and areas visited by pupils for curricular and extra-curricular activities, including trips abroad.
- With respect to substance abuse, the education programme will remain an integral part of the Learning for Life PSHE programme
- Local initiatives and networks for drugs education will be supported, especially when working in collaboration with other schools
- Appropriate training will be part of both staff as well as Governors' training programme and an awareness programme will be available for parents
- sanctions imposed for substance-related offences will allow for consistency of approach between the Piggott School and neighbouring schools. The level of sanctions will relate appropriately to those used in connection with other breaches of rules and discipline within schools; all cases will be looked at individually.
- Permanently Excluded Pupils: In general terms the most appropriate provision for a permanently excluded pupil will initially be to the Foundry College.

THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATION POLICY IN RESPECT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

- It is the school's policy that pupils should be enabled to consider the effects of substances such as tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on themselves and others, through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding. The focus of the programme will be upon the pupils themselves and their knowledge, feelings, attitudes and decision making capabilities.
- The school's education programme will be integrated within the broader framework of Learning for Life and will take account of the changing perceptions of pupils in relation to drugs.
- The programme will take account of the need for pupils to attain the personal and inter-personal skills necessary for coping with life in a society where many kinds of drugs will continue to be available, some of which are potentially harmful. These skills include seeking and sifting information, critical thinking, decision making and assertiveness.
- We will recognise the need for pupils to develop and maintain a level of self esteem which will motivate them to value their welfare and take conscientious care of themselves.
- Parents and governors will be kept informed about the school's policy and practice in relation to substance abuse and the school's education programme.

POLICY FOR INCIDENTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

- The school will have procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents, including a range of appropriate sanctions. These will be known by all school staff, pupils, parents and governors. There will be clear statements of the steps to be followed if there is any evidence of unauthorised pupil involvement with legal or illegal drugs, (possession, supply or use). These statements will cover:
 - the provision of medical aid if necessary;
 - discussions with pupils as appropriate;
 - the procedures for informing specified senior staff; recording procedures, to include facts and actions taken .
- All staff will have an understanding of the limits of confidentiality and the degree of confidentiality which can be expected will be explained to the pupils prior to a discussion.
- Following an incident, discussion involving relevant staff members and specified senior staff will take place to decide whether others outside the school should be consulted or informed. (e.g. parent, EWO, Police Schools Liaison Officer, Community Drug Agencies and Health Authority personnel.)
- There is a need for pupils to know what school sanctions will or may operate if they become involved with drugs.
- Sanctions will take into account:
 - the short and long term welfare of the pupil(s) concerned;
 - the short and long term welfare of other pupils;
 - the difference between rejecting behaviour and rejecting the person;
 - the need for consistency in connection with other drug-related incidents, previous treatment of the same pupils following transgressions and the content of the School's Drugs Education Programme.
 - The need to maintain a dialogue with the pupil(s) involved
- If an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, the Police Schools Liaison Officer for the area will be contacted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES: SCHEMES OF WORK (PSHE), BEHAVIOUR POLICY AND PROCEDURES;