

Hall Green Primary School



Drug Policy

This policy was formally adopted by the Premises, Health and Safety Committee, on behalf of the Governing Body of Hall Green Primary School, on

Signed.....

Name

Hall Green Primary School Drug (including Alcohol) Policy

Name of Designated School Lead for drugs (DSL): R Paddock

Senior Management Team member identified for Drug Related Incidents: K Heng

School Governor identified as Drugs lead: tbc

Rationale

"Young people of all ages want reliable information about drugs, including good quality drug education in primary and secondary school" (O'Conner et al, 1997; Blackman, 1996; Roker and Coleman, 1997).

Identifying what the school classes as a drug is very important. The World Health Organisation classes it as "a substance, which on entering the body, changes the way that body functions".

This following list includes those substances which were widely accepted as those most commonly misused at the time of writing this policy:

1. Any prescribed medication used by anyone it is not prescribed to.
 2. Any medication being misused
 3. Any controlled or scheduled drug
 4. Alcohol
 5. Amphetamines (Speed)
 6. Anabolic Steroids
 7. Cannabis (Large variety of slang names)
 8. Cocaine Hydrochloride (Powder)/Crack Cocaine
 9. Cigarettes (Tobacco)
 10. DMT (N-Dimethyltryptamine)
 11. GHB (gamma-Hydroxybutyric acid or "date rape" drug)
 12. Herbal Highs
 13. Ketamine
 14. LSD (Acid)
 15. MDMA (3-4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine or Ecstasy)
 16. Mephedrone (Meow Meow or M-Cat)
 17. Nitrates (Poppers)
 18. Opiates (Heroin)
 19. Opiate Substitutes (Methadone, Subutex, Naltraxone)
 20. Phenethylamines (2CB, 2CTI, 2CT7)
 21. Psilocybin (Magic Mushrooms)
 22. Qat or Khat (stimulant)
 23. Volatile Substances known as VS (Gas, Glue, sniffable products)
- New drugs will consistently become available so, along with this policy, this list must be revised at least bi-annually to ensure that the most common are included.
 - Not all of the above are illegal but they should still not be tolerated on school premises.
 - Cigarettes, VS and Alcohol are drugs and should be thought of in the same way as illicit drugs.
 - No single category of drug should be placed higher than any other. It is important that drugs such as alcohol are placed on a par with illicit drugs.

Hall Green Primary School Drug (including Alcohol) Policy

Aims and Objectives

The misuse of drugs remains an issue in terms of harm to the physical and mental health of those participating in short or long term drug-related activity. There remains a concern that our young people may be placed, at some stage in their life, in situations where drugs are involved.

We aim to:

1. Educate our young people factually, non-judgmentally and with the inclusion of key partner agencies
2. To have a clear training strategy for all staff, governors, parents/carers.
3. To have a clear strategy for dealing with drug related incidents

Drug Education

There are resources available for Sandwell schools free of charge. These materials can be accessed from www.trustdecca.com and FRANK. These resources fulfil the aims of drug education as stated in DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, September 2012.

We will access a new resource, Dog, Duck and Cat to deliver drugs and alcohol education as part of a scheme of work designed to meet the statutory RHSE requirements. We may also choose to use other educational materials but these will need to be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant.

Staff Training and Parental Awareness

Drug education needs to be a constant theme. This will only be possible if teachers are properly trained. Those involved in teaching drug education need opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and confidence through a programme of continuing professional development.

The Sandwell DECCA (Drug Education, Counselling and Confidential Advice) Team and/or resources accessed via FRANK will be used to provide training for all staff.

DECCA resources will also be accessed to deliver awareness sessions to parents/carers. A new resource, Dog, Duck and Cat will provide additional resources to support parents.

Guidance on Handling Drug Related Incidents

"The welfare of the child is paramount at all times"

No school should believe that it is immune to drugs, including ourselves.

Given that no one incident is identical to another, we will adopt a range of strategies, choosing the most suitable depending on the needs arising from specific occurrences. If needed we will refer a young person(s) to the DECCA Team but this may not always be appropriate.

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, we will prioritise their safety and the safety of those around them. If necessary the incident will be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support (see Appendix A). Parents and, depending on the circumstances, the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and Children's services may need to be contacted.

The following provides guidance to staff regarding the actions to take should drug-related circumstances occur.

If there is an allegation/suspicion of a drug related incident in school:

1. If you hear/are told that a pupil is using/in possession of drugs you need to act immediately.
2. Inform the DSL and/or the Head Teacher or another senior member of staff.
3. If possible have two staff present. This can be important if any future allegations are made.
4. When talking to the pupil, note their disposition. If you know the pupil well enough to make a provisional judgement, consider the following: Are they acting out of character? Do they appear in any way intoxicated? Do they appear to be acting suspiciously?
5. Explain why you have asked to speak to them, referring in summary to the school's zero tolerance policy regarding drugs/alcohol.

Hall Green Primary School **Drug (including Alcohol) Policy**

6. Request that the pupil hands any drug and/or alcohol related items to you. If they refuse and you believe they have drugs on their person, clarify that the police and/or parent(s)/carer(s) will then need to be contacted.
7. Teachers can search pupil/pupils' possessions (directing them to turn out their pockets and searching bags or lockers) for prohibited items* with the pupil's consent.
A minimum of 2 members of staff must be present whilst any agreed search is taking place.
8. Searches can be undertaken without the pupil's consent if there are reasonable grounds** to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item provided the following:
 - There are reasonable grounds** to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.
 - The search is undertaken by a member of staff authorised to conduct such searches.
 - The authorised person is of the same sex as the pupil being searched
 - Another member of staff is present during the search (preferably another authorised person also of the same sex as the pupil).
 - Only personal possessions, outer clothing and pockets are searched.
 - Reasonable force*** is used only when there are reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil may otherwise harm themselves or others if they remain in possession of the prohibited item they are suspected of possessing.
9. Record every action that is undertaken as a description of events may be needed at a later stage.
- 10a. If a young person discloses something about drugs it should be dealt with as any other safeguarding disclosure. Therefore, while not be appropriate to hold a full discussion without hesitation, the pupil should be appropriately assured that you are there to listen to them. In these circumstances arrange to speak to pupil without delay, if possible arranging to be released immediately.
- 10b. As soon as possible inform the DSL so a referral to the DECCA Team can be made or other support offered as appropriate.
- 10c. Record every action that is undertaken as a description of events may be needed at a later stage.

In the early to mid- teens there is a strong correlation between drug use and truancy. Where there are existing concerns regarding drug and/or alcohol use, persistent absentees will be referred to the DECCA Team if they miss out on drug education as part of RHSE.

**Prohibited items include knives; weapons, alcohol; illegal drugs and stolen items.*

***See "Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools" January 2018*

****See "Use of reasonable force in schools" July 2013*

Also see the government's policy paper: Drug Strategy 2017

Confidentiality

See school Confidentiality Policy.

If contact has to be made with parent(s)/carer(s) and/or the Police, the DSL or a member of the Senior Management Team will be the only people designated to do this.

Informing Parents

As with any matter involving the safeguarding and welfare of a pupil, contacting parents/carers without delay is appropriate unless it is judged that there are legitimate grounds to believe that in doing so there would be a risk of harm to the child, or if the parents are believed to be directly involved in the situation causing concern.

The decision not to contact should only be made by the Head Teacher/Teacher in Charge or designated member of the Senior Management Team.

For children who are Looked After Children (LAC) the appropriate contact individual must be informed and fully involved in any action taken by the school.

Hall Green Primary School Drug (including Alcohol) Policy

When contacting parents/carers, communication should be such that distress is kept to a minimum. A telephone call asking that they come to school to discuss an incident, without giving specific details, is most appropriate but any arrangement made must ensure that there is no unnecessary delay.

The pupil should be involved as much as possible in the process of contacting any outside organisations and if possible they should take the lead in admitting their drug use to parents/carers.

Parents/carers should be involved as much as possible in the implementing of appropriate sanctions for their child.

The offer of support to parents/careers should be considered as early as possible, ensuring that they are enabled to support their child appropriately by being fully informed.

Discipline and Early Intervention

Discipline

Whilst permanent exclusion is available as a consequence of the possession or use of drugs and alcohol in school, this will not be an automatic consequence of this behaviour. We will recognise that exclusions are likely to exacerbate any drug related behaviours and will therefore balance the variables present for each individual when deciding on the most effective consequence to be issued.

Securing the inclusion of parents in decisions regarding discipline will be a crucial factor in ensuring the effectiveness of any consequence issued.

Early Intervention

We have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between pupils who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

As a school, we will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that a child is experiencing difficult home circumstances and will be pro-active in the early identification of children's needs and also in safeguarding the children in our care. When appropriate or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home we will assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and when and how to involve other sources of support for the child such as Children's Services, or seek the engagement of the family in finding the most appropriate Early Help routes to support them.

Controlled drugs

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, September 2012 provides the following guidance with regard to controlled drugs. It should be noted that this guidance recognises that some drugs which are not currently categorised as "controlled" may have equally serious or concerning effects and in these circumstances should be dealt with as if a controlled substance.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response

Hall Green Primary School
Drug (including Alcohol) Policy

APPENDIX A: What to do in a drug related medical emergency

Our aim is to ensure that as many of our staff team as possible are trained in first aid. There will always be at least one designated first aider in school.

Below is the guidance that will be followed:

1. If possible get the person concerned to stand or sit. This would only differ if it were thought the person had fallen and there was a chance of spinal injury.
2. If a person is unconscious always telephone for medical help.
3. Remove any immediate danger away from the person. If a hypodermic needle is still in a part of the body, it is advisable to remove it due to the risk of further injury and place the person in the recovery position.
4. Barrier methods should be used when handling any sharps. They include:
 - Thick rubber gloves, not latex
 - Aprons. It is especially important for caretaking staff to take these steps.
5. Do not leave the person unattended, shout for help. Do not leave the person with a pupil but a pupil could be sent to raise the alarm.
6. Whilst your first priority is for the pupil(s) at immediate risk you must ensure the safety of others. If at all possible keep the area clear. This removes the element of risk and lessens the chance of gossip.
7. If the person is conscious ask them what they have taken and how. Keep them under observation in a quiet place. Do not try to induce vomiting. If you know what drug has been used it may be necessary to give the person fluid to rehydrate them. If in doubt give them nothing by mouth and call an ambulance.
8. Have two staff there if possible. This ensures that the recording of events is more accurate; reduces stress levels and may be important in future if allegations are made.
9. Any attending professional has to make a record of what has been done and witnessed.
10. It is vital that any information, substance samples and vomit are passed on to attending professionals if possible. This may help to save their life.

Implementing and monitoring

This policy will be reviewed bi- annually.