



CHAILEY SCHOOL

Policy on Substance Use and Misuse

Date of Governing Body's Approval:

September 2020

Chair of Governors *[Signature]*

Headteacher *[Signature]*

Date Due for Review: September 2021

POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE

INTRODUCTION

Key Facts

In the NHS 'Statistic on Drug Misuse' England 2018:

- There were 7,545 hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders. This is 12 per cent lower than 2015/16 but 12 per cent higher than 2006/07
- There were 14,053 hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by illicit drugs. This is 7 per cent lower than 2015/16 but 40 per cent more than 2006/07.
- In 2016, 24 per cent of pupils reported they had ever taken drugs. This compares to 15 per cent in 2014.
- The likelihood of having ever taken drugs increased with age, from 11 per cent of 11 year olds to 37 per cent of 15 year olds.

AIMS and PHILOSOPHY

Chailey aims to provide a safe and secure environment for all those who use the premises.

Promote a culture in which substance misuse is discouraged.

We want to give students the knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to make responsible choices.

Prevent substance misuse by raising awareness of the risks and potential harm to health associated with the use of intoxicating substances.

Provide practical guidance on how to deal with substance misuse effectively and ensure any cases are dealt with in an appropriate, fair and consistent manner.

Recognise substance misuse problems primarily as a health matter needing help and treatment.

Encourage employees who suspect or know they have a substance misuse problem to seek help voluntarily and provide assistance to these employees to overcome their problem.

We promote a consistent approach to health issues throughout all aspects of school life both within and beyond the curriculum.

SCHOOL: EDUCATIONAL AIMS

All students will need to make informed choices about their own drug use because legal and illegal drugs are a part of our society.

The majority of drug and alcohol education will match the age maturity and experience of the students and be taught as part of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship (PSHE) programme in Key Stage 3. In Key Stage 4, PSHE is delivered through the tutor time programme.

This will include:-

- Developing positive attitudes towards personal health and safety
- The development of a range of personal skills to make informed choices
- Enabling students to gain an understanding of how their bodies function and how any drug use can affect that functioning.
- The benefits and risks of drugs
- The effects of drugs

- The law on drugs
- Legal and illegal drugs
- A consideration of the implications of drug use for the individual, family and wider community/society.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES RE: ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies.

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised.

The Headteacher may not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on their premises. Knowingly permitting these activities is unlawful under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Should any illegal drugs be found on the school premises, it is the Head's responsibility to hand them over to the Police.

Staff have a legal right to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a drug/alcohol solvent.

Staff can search bags and lockers if they have reasonable cause to believe illegal substances may be stored there.

WARNING SIGNS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

We all have a responsibility towards each other. If someone is abusing alcohol, solvents or drugs, they need help as they may endanger their own health and that of their friends. Often they will not ask for help themselves. If a teacher suspects anything about a student or colleague, he/she must consult a senior member of staff.

The signs below can show that individuals are abusing drugs, alcohol or solvents; though many of the signs can also relate to other causes:

- Sudden, marked changes of mood
- Loss of appetite, restlessness
- Lack of interest in work or hobbies
- Friends dropped and replaced by new ones
- Unexplained absence
- Unexplained tiredness
- Lying or strange behaviour
- Excessive spending of money
- Unexplained loss of possessions or money
- Sores or rashes on the face
- Accused of theft or borrowing money
- Things not going so well at home
- Becoming a 'drug bore'

RESPONDING TO DRUG/ALCOHOL RELATED INCIDENTS

Where we have concerns about individual students, referrals are made to Under-19 Substance Misuse Service. In the case of previous involvement with the family, the matter must also be brought to the attention of Social Services.

Governors are informed of all cases of either possession or dealing in illegal substances (selling, sharing and bartering) in school.

The Governors will support the permanent exclusion of students involved in dealing in illegal substances.

The Governors will support the fixed term exclusion of students found in possession of illegal drugs.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. We seek to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community.

In the welfare of staff, the school will follow Children's Services guidelines on substance misuse as part of its Health and Safety Policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The Headteacher takes responsibility for liaison with the media and will ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the students, their families and the school.