

**THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL**

# Drugs Policy



**Adopted By:** Local Governing Body

**Signed:** Chair - A.N. Moore

*A.N. Moore*

**Date:** 7.7.21

**Review Date:** 6.7.24

**'DRUGS' REFERS TO ALL DRUGS INCLUDING MEDICINES PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS, VOLATILE SUBSTANCES, ALCOHOL LEGAL HIGHS AND TOBACCO.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

At Thomas Hardye School, we are aware of the complexity of risks to young people, at home, at school and in the wider community so cannot afford to be complacent. We consider it important that all our students are given information, empowering them to make informed decisions and helping to build their self-esteem.

- The school does not condone the misuse or supply of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, or community.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard the well-being of all its members.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and a national level, the school has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse in society. The school is pro-active on this matter, believing that Health Education is an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education of every student.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing with parents/guardians the responsibility for the education of young people, by keeping them informed and involved as much as possible. Effective communication and co-operation are essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that there are a number of young people who use substances it is important to recognise that larger numbers of young people are choosing not to. We will continue to support their differing educational needs.

## **AIMS**

To raise the self-esteem of students

**To raise the self-esteem of students and have a greater awareness of the dangers associated with a range of drugs and other substances that they may come into contact with.**

- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To enable students to make healthy informed choices, by developing knowledge and challenging attitudes.
- To increase understanding about the implications of, and possible consequences of, substance use and to seek to minimise the risks that young people face in society.
- To widen understanding about related social and health issues, such as HIV and Hepatitis B.
- To enable young people to identify and access sources of appropriate support.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experience in both the formal and the informal curriculum. We deliver drugs education in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHCE but a wide range of opportunities to reinforce learning occurs in other parts of the teaching programme, such as Science, English, Drama and PE.

The school works in partnership with other agencies, such as Social Services, LA and Health and Drug agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with drug related incidents.

Outside speakers supporting the school come in to Thomas Hardy School to give talks to the students. These are organised by the PSHCE Coordinator.

## **THE LAW ON 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.

The terms 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, are used throughout this document to refer to all drugs.

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) or steroids
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- All substances within the legal high definition

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act
- to be in possession of or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he/she took all such steps as were reasonably open to him/her to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to do so
- for the occupier or manager or any person who has control or management of any premises to knowingly allow, permit or suffer the smoking of cannabis, opium or the production or supply of any controlled drug on those premises. (Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

## **PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH SUSPECTED DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL**

Use of prescribed drugs, on school premises, should be under the strict guidance of the GP and where necessary stored in a locked cabinet and distributed by the school medical officer.

### **General**

In the event of hearing reports of possible misuse, a member of staff should inform first the Tutor verbally and in writing; he/she may already have background knowledge. The tutor passes this information to the Guidance Leader and the College Leader and ultimately to the Assistant Headteacher. Students considered to be at risk will be offered support from the Guidance Leader team; students may then be directed to a Support Agency eg Shadows. We cannot guarantee confidentiality and in as many cases as possible we will be seeking to involve parents/guardians.

### Intoxication

In the event of students' intoxication, staff should send a reliable pupil for a member of staff or an appropriate adult. A First-Aider may also be necessary. Under no circumstances should the student be left alone with other students.

### Possession

If students are found in possession or using illegal or controlled substances as defined in this document, they should be escorted to the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or in their absence, the College Leader/Guidance Leader for their particular College, who will inform parents/guardians and the police if necessary. Staff should beware of making direct accusations. If staff have absolute knowledge of possession, they should not attempt to remove the substance from the student, but to escort him/her, preferably with another member of staff, eg the senior member of staff on call, and the substance, to the Headteacher. The substance will be removed to a secure place and the parents/guardians informed. If necessary the Police will be informed. Staff should not attempt to search the student or his/her bag, but bring the bag to the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Police may interview students on the premises, with the consent of the Headteacher, provided that efforts have been made to contact the parents/guardians. Interviews should be conducted with an appropriate adult present. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its code of practice set out procedures in respect of the detention, treatment and questioning of young people by Police Officers, which should be observed when children are interviewed on school premises.

If necessary, the Headteacher will hold a prepared statement for media release agreed by the Governing Body; no one else should speak with the Press. In the event of a drugs related incident, the LA and the Chair of the Governing Body or his/her Vice-Chair in his/her absence, will be informed immediately by the Headteacher.

### **Discipline procedures**

#### Intoxication

Once the student has been removed to a place of safety, the parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their son/daughter. The parents/guardians will be asked in to school, to discuss the incident and to ensure that there is no recurrence. The parents/guardians will be given contact numbers of local support agencies and counselling will be recommended. The student will work in isolation or receive a fixed term exclusion.

#### Possession/supplying

Similar procedures will be followed if a student is found in possession of illegal substances or any other substance as outlined in this document. If we have absolute knowledge of possession, we are duty bound to inform parents/guardians, but are not obliged to inform the police. Where possession is only suspected, great caution must be exercised returning to school will be an agreement to consider counselling

Supplying drugs may be harder to define.

Typical features of those students involved in possible supply may include:

- Large amounts of drugs in their possession
- Individually wrapped/bagged drugs
- Large amounts of money that cannot be reasonably accounted for
- Scales or other similar equipment
- Large quantities of small sealable plastic bags
- Seen in brief exchanges with other students
- Mobile phones, in particular texts that indicate requests to supply drugs

If a student is found in possession of anything other than a very small amount of illegal substances, we will assume suspicion of possessing drugs with the intent to supply. The level of proof should be high but does not have to be absolute. The Headteacher should consider on the balance of probabilities, whether the offence had been committed. Reliable witness statements would constitute proof. It would not be necessary for a student to be caught red-handed or to be caught in possession. Money does not have to change hands to qualify as 'supplying' drugs. As with possession, the parents/guardians will be informed and in this case, the police. If supplying other students in school is proven, the student will be permanently excluded. Parents/guardians and students may be required to attend a meeting with a senior member of staff. They will be required to sign a statement that confirms that they have read and understood this policy.

### **Drug-related exclusions**

Supplying an illegal drug is always a serious breach of school rules. Even for a one-off or first offence, the Headteacher will judge that an incident involving supply of an illegal drug warrants permanent exclusion.

- A first instance of possession or use of a harmful or illegal substance results in a fixed term exclusion.
- A second instance of possession or use of a harmful or illegal substance (throughout the period of a student's school life) results in permanent exclusion.
- A first instance of supplying (with or without charge) harmful or illegal substances results in a permanent exclusion.

*"In exceptional cases when a school decides to exclude permanently for supply of an illegal drug, repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug on school premises, the Secretary of State would not normally expect the Governors' Discipline Committee or an Independent Appeal Panel to reinstate the pupil"*

*(Drugs: Guidance for Schools. DfES/0205/2003)*

The following factors will have been considered:

- a proper investigation will have been carried out;
- all evidence available will have been considered to support the allegations, taking account of the school's behaviour and equal opportunities policies, and where applicable, the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended;
- the student will have been allowed to give their version of events;
- a check will have taken place to establish whether the incident(s) may have been provoked for example, by bullying or by racial or sexual harassment;
- others will have been consulted if necessary.
- all incidents involving drugs will be recorded (see form from DfE – Appendix 11)

### **ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

The PSHCE co-ordinator will take responsibility for planning the drug education programme in the Thomas Hardy School. It is recognised that basic training is required for staff, including non-teachers in the awareness and delivery of Drugs education. The emphasis in Drugs education lessons will be on informing students of the facts and laws about drugs of all types and on building their self-esteem, rather than lecturing. The programme will also cover the effects of nicotine and alcohol. There is liaison across the DASP pyramid to ensure continuity and consistence of approach.

The policy will be reviewed every three years.

NB

Any drugs related paraphernalia such as 'bong, grinders etc' are considered as 'banned items' for the purpose of this document. Although most drugs paraphernalia is not illegal to possess or supply we at THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL do not want these particular items to be brought into our premises as we feel this would be actively encouraging the use/supply of drugs on our premises.

As 'banned items' we will seize any such paraphernalia and students will then be searched as per DfES guidelines to ensure they have no illegal substances in their possession. We may contact the parents/police depending on what is found.

**Amendments**

06/21: Reviewed and updated; PSCE coordinator staff name removed and changed to title only, changes made to Possession section and Discipline procedures section

