



Drugs Education Policy Spring 2017



Drugs Education

As a school, we have the interests and well being of all pupils at heart and we recognise that the use of many drugs, including medicine, tobacco, and alcohol is commonplace and that an increasing number of young people are being exposed to the availability of illegal drugs. We recognise that, along with parents, the school can enable young people to understand how drugs can benefit and harm individuals and communities. Our school programme of health education, in which work about drugs is included, will seek:

- To enable young people to make responsible, healthy, informed choices about the role drugs might play in their lifestyle, by acquiring sound information, exploring attitudes and values and by developing effective decision-making and communication skills.
- To promote the self esteem and sense of self worth of every individual pupil irrespective of their academic abilities.
- To increase awareness and understanding of possible legal, social, economic and health consequences arising from the use and misuse of drugs.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate support.

These aims will be met through the programmes of study within the taught curriculum and particularly within science, PE, RE and Personal and Social Education, through the informal curriculum and through extra-curricular activities such as Crucial Crew (Year 6)). Where anyone from outside the school contributes to the programme of work they will do so in accordance with this policy.

The school only uses NYCC recommended visiting speakers, resources and organisations to supplement the delivery of drugs education.

Good Practice

Following the NYCC Safeguarding Audit December 2015, the school has implemented a **Staff Code of Conduct** which is supported by the DFE document: "Guidance for safer working practice for adults who work with children in education settings (March 2009)". All staff have signed that they have received a copy of both these document and will adhere to the guidance.

The influence which adults, including teachers, non-teachers, parents and others can have on young people cannot be underestimated. Presenting young people with clear, unequivocal role models that are consistent with what we teach in schools is very helpful. Positive role models include:

- Not smoking on school premises or in the vicinity of the school perimeter.
- Not smoking in face to face situations with pupils.
- Not smoking on school transport including private cars where other people's children are passengers.
- Being alcohol free whilst caring for pupils either in or out of school on an activity for which the school is responsible.



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Dealing with Drug Related Incidents.

Whilst drug related issues have been non-existent within the Glusburn School Community, it is a responsible approach to have clear guidelines in place should a drugs related incident occur. Any drug related incident will be considered individually and in consultation with other relevant professionals (Child Protection, Police, School Nurse) with due regard to balancing the interests of any individual involved with those of the wider school community. Examples of responses to drug related incidents vary from a reprimand to being reported to the police, from being offered advice and support to being excluded from school. As the latter serves only to transfer problems not resolve them, exclusions will normally be a sanction reserved for use when other measures have failed.

In dealing with incidents the following will be taken into account:

- Confidentiality - Schools cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils but as far as is possible we will ensure that information provided is treated carefully and sensitively.
- Police contact - There is no legal obligation on a school to contact the police. However in any case of an alleged *supply of a controlled drug* the police will be informed. In other cases, the school will determine whether to involve the police. It is a matter for the police if further action follows. Police on school premises without either a parent knowing or being present will not normally interview pupils. In the event of them so doing then a senior member of the school staff will be present.
- Parents - Although there is no legal obligation on the school to inform parents if their son/daughter is involved in a drug related incident, the school will contact parents as soon as is reasonably practicable. We would expect to work with parents and the individual pupil to successfully resolve any problems. In such cases, staff should consult the Child Protection Policy for guidance if required.

Drugs on premises / persons - If drugs, (excluding medicines) are found on premises or on individuals the drugs should be seized and secured by the teacher or other adult member of staff finding them. The incident should be reported to the Headteacher who will inform the police.