

Education Department Policy

Title: **Drugs Policy**

Date: **May 2016**

Overview

Drugs education plays a key role in equipping children with the necessary skills, understanding and knowledge to move confidently into adult life. All within the Education Department (ED) have a responsibility to inform our children and young people of the facts in a sensitive style that will engage and support them, using recognised and evidence based teaching strategies.

Society as a whole is concerned about the effects of drug misuse. The misuse of drugs within any ED premises will not be tolerated. Our schools are no smoking areas. (Smoking policy September 2006)

Some of our children and young people need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements will be made to enable the correct distribution of these. (Administration of Medicines in Schools October 2008)

This Drugs policy is part of an overall approach to health and well-being in ED Schools and Colleges

Scope

The Policy applies to all ED schools and colleges.

Responsibilities and distribution

All ED schools and colleges will have a drugs policy which is aligned to this ED Drugs Policy, and which covers the content and organisation of drugs education and the management of drug incidents.

This document outlines the overarching ED Drugs Policy and also contains guidance for schools and colleges in formulating and reviewing their own policy.

This document sets out to fulfil two purposes:

- 1 To state the guiding principles behind the
 - a) Aim and Content of Drugs Education
 - b) Management of Drug Incidents in ED schools and colleges
- 2 To set out the guidelines for schools and colleges writing or reviewing their own Drug Policy

Policy Aims

This Drugs Policy is part of the overall approach to health and well-being adopted by ED in relation to its work with children and young people and aims to:

- Increase students' knowledge and understanding about drugs, the dangers associated with the misuse of drugs and to clarify their misconceptions
- Develop students' personal and social skills to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Enable students to explore their own and other people's attitude towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
- Ensure the safety of staff and students when on school site or when on any school trip or visit, residential or otherwise.
- Take a firm stance against illegal drugs.
- Provide an agreed ED approach to issues of healthy lifestyle.
- Alert children and young people to ways of seeking additional help and support where necessary.

This policy defines drugs as 'a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' ([UN Office on Drugs and Crime](#)). This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and medicines.

1a AIM AND CONTENT OF DRUGS EDUCATION

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to:

- Minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use
- Delay the age of onset of first use
- Reduce the harm caused by drugs
- Enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help

Planning and Teaching of Drug Education

Drug education is provided through Curriculum subjects such as Science, Drama and PSHE, visits from outside agencies, and other related curriculum areas as part of a student's preparation for adult life.

This information should be age appropriate and include an assessment process for pupils and a monitoring and evaluation process to measure teaching and effectiveness of the programme. It should:

- be delivered in the context of the school as part of the community.
- take account of age, sex, ethnic/cultural/social background of the students at whom it is targeted.
- provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.
- aim to teach the students the necessary personal and social skills to address the aims stated above
- have realistic aims and be consistent with the school's values and ethos
- include an assessment process for pupils and a monitoring and evaluation process to measure learning and effectiveness
- be consistent with the school's policy and practice for managing drug-related incidents

In addition:

- Schools will ensure that all staff delivering drug education courses are appropriately trained.
- The school should use current information from the latest Health Related Study to inform appropriate drug education to target identified areas of risk (available from the Public Health Department).

All schools need to set realistic aims for their drug education which include the above and which are consistent with the values of the school and the laws of society, as well as appropriate to the age of pupils. Schools should ensure that visitors' teaching expertise is sound and that their contribution is consistent with the school's values and approach to drug education.

Drug Education in the Curriculum

The Jersey Curriculum 2014 sets out the requirements for drug education.

Statutory guidance:

Science

Key Stage 2	Year 6 Animals including Humans Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function
Key Stage 3	Gas Exchange Systems The impact of exercise, asthma and smoking on the human gas exchange system
Key Stage 3	Health The effects of recreational drugs (including substance misuse) on behaviour, health and life processes
Key Stage 4	Awaiting consultation due to GCSE reform

Non – Statutory guidance:

PSHE & Citizenship

All schools should make provision for drugs education within their personal, social, health and economic education programme (PSHE). The PSHE Association provide a Programme of Study based on best practice and incorporating Drugs Education and can be accessed through the link https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/resources_search_details.aspx?ResourceId=495

The Jersey Healthy School Standard supports a whole school approach to a PSHE In-Service Training Programme with support from Public Health Department.

Parent/Carers Role

A comprehensive information leaflet entitled 'A Parent's Guide to Drugs' published by Jersey Health and Social Services Department is available that gives support to parents in addressing these issues. This can be downloaded at <https://www.gov.je/Health/HealthyLiving/AlcoholDrugs/Pages/ParentGuideDrugs.aspx>

Parents/carers have an important role to play in supporting their child's drug education. Young people are more likely to delay or avoid drug misuse when

- family bonds are strong.
- there are strong parental monitoring and clear family rules.
- there is open dialogue between parent and child.

Parents should be

- made aware of the school's approach and rationale for drug education.
- involved in the planning and review of the drug education programme and policy.
- given information about their child's drug education and rules in relation to drugs.
- made aware of help available to them through local and national sources.

1b MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS INCIDENTS IN ED SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within any ED Premises and/or boundaries is unacceptable.

In dealing with drug related incidents ED staffs' primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and of the community as a whole.

Often drugs related incidents can be placed into one of three broad categories

- i. Rumours of use or dealing on or off the premises.
- ii. Actual use or dealing on or off the premises (this may require a first aid response).
- iii. Disclosures of own or others use from a student or parent and requests for help and support.

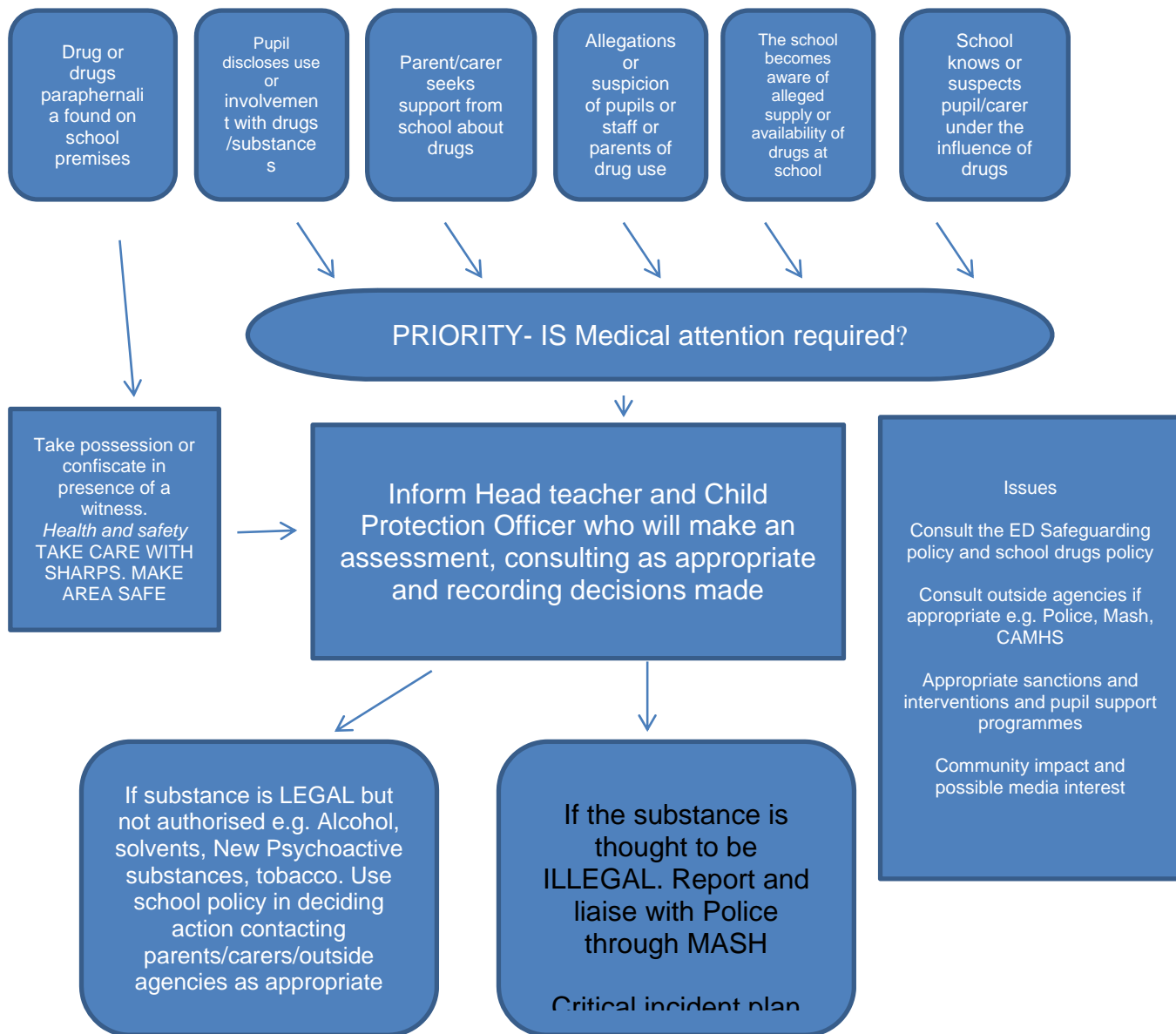
Responses to these incidents will vary from the punitive to the pastoral. Consider how these incidents might be handled in your school. The Flowchart on Managing Drugs incidents can be used to determine interventions and/or strategies following such incidents.

Based on Section 4 from [Drugs: Guidance for Schools Ref: DFES/0092/2004](#)

The following ED policies are linked to this Drugs Policy:

- Safeguarding policies. An overview
- Policy for the Management of Drug Related Incidents in Schools and Colleges 1998 (superseded by this policy)
- Police involvement on ED premises
- Administration of Medicines in Schools
- Policy on Smoking September
- Critical Incident Management Plan Guidance

FLOWCHART Guidance on Managing Drugs Incidents in Schools



Points

1. All schools should have a drugs policy which is periodically reviewed and assessed and consistent with the school's safeguarding policy. A senior member of staff who is responsible for the school drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug related incidents.
2. Drugs education should be integrated across the whole school curriculum appropriate to age group.
3. A teacher can confiscate a substance that they believe to be a controlled drug to prevent further offences being committed. If staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug. DfE/ACPO
4. Education and prevention strategies are most effective when the whole school community including parents/carers and governors are involved.

2 GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES WRITING OR REVIEWING THEIR OWN DRUG POLICY

All schools will have a policy which sets out the school's role in relation to all drug matters.

The purpose of a school/college drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school/college.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school/college.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school/college drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorized drugs.

A Whole School Approach

A whole school approach to drugs should be adopted, this should include:

- Consideration of policy by the whole school community – staff, parents/carers, pupils, governors and the wider community.
- Consistency with schools values and ethos, developed by all members of the school community.
- Drug education that is a part of a well planned programme delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary. This is likely to be addressed by a review of the PSHE curriculum.
- Policy and practice for managing incidents is consistent with teaching.
- Pupils needs and views are taken into account when developing programmes and policies.
- Staff have access to training and support.
- It is supported by consistent messages from the family and community.

The advice and guidance in the **DFE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools September 2012** is helpful as a checklist when compiling or reviewing a school or college Drug Policy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date Issued	Issued by	Reason for Change
0.1	9 March 2011	Professional Partner to Schools	First Draft for review
0.2	10 May 2011	Professional Partner to Schools	Second Draft for review
0.3	22 June 2012	Professional Partner to Schools	Third Draft for review
0.4	20 May 2014	Professional Partner to Schools	Final Draft
0.5	24 June 2014	Professional Partner to Schools	Amended as suggested by MDAC
0.6	30 June 2014	Professional Partner to Schools	Links to ESC Policies removed
0.7	10 July 2014	Professional Partner to Schools	Amended as suggested by Secondary Heads
0.8	11 May 2016	Professional Partner to Schools	Updated name of Department and removed names of ED Officers

APPROVAL

Presented To	Approved by:	Date
Secondary Head Teachers	Amendments made as suggested	7 July 2014
Primary Head Teachers		8 July 2014
Police / Honorary Police		
Senior Management Team		1 July 2014
ESC Minister		
GP's		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Planned review date:	Distribution:	
Associated policies	Name	Reference