



IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Policy Document



The Cornerstones of our
Learning Community

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Policy Name:

Drugs Education

Date:

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Drug - A definition: 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and medicines.

It is the school's responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of all students and therefore this policy is linked to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. The education around substance misuse is largely the responsibility of the Personal Development Department and other related areas such as Science and Religion, Ethics and Philosophy (REP). The responsibility of dealing with substance-related issues lies with Pastoral Teams with the support, where necessary, of the Senior Leadership Team. The latest advice for schools from the Government was issued in 2012 (DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, 2012).

What is a drug?

Drugs are generally classified as one of the following categories:

- Legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents.
- Illegal drugs which are classified as 'A, B or C' in the 'Misuse of Drugs Act 2005'.
Examples of these are: a) Ecstasy, LSD, Heroin and Cocaine; b) Amphetamines, Methylphenidate (Ritalin when sold); c) Cannabis, tranquilisers and painkillers (sold to non-prescribed persons, Ketamine).

We regard a school-related drug incident, as:

- One which happens in school, outside the school gates, on the school bus, on school visits, or an event after school hours organised through school. This covers any category.
- Discovery of substances or unauthorised equipment associated with the use of drugs on school premises or as mentioned above.
- Possession of an unauthorised substance for personal use by a student, or possession with a view to supplying others.
- Intoxication of a student.
- Disclosure of drug misuse by a student.
- When a parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of a drug category on school premises.

Possible responses to a drug incident

- The child should be listened to, reassured and the allegations taken seriously. It should be explained that you are concerned for the child's well being and, as a result of the disclosure, the designated teacher will have to be contacted and that this can lead to Children's Services being contacted.
- The child must be allowed to disclose without questioning or prompting. A written record of the information given and the action taken should be made and a copy given to the designated teacher, dated and signed.
- The member of staff to whom the disclosure is made should, if possible, stay with the child until a decision is made in consultation with the designated teacher and Children's Services duty officer, about any emergency or other immediate action which is to be taken. The child should be made to feel comfortable and helped to cope with what is a stressful situation.

Imberhorne School's drug-awareness strategy aims to constantly reinforce the harm that drugs cause to society, to communities, individuals and their families. We work in partnership with students, parents/carers and external agencies to ensure that this aim is fully achieved.

Guidance and Education for students

Imberhorne School aims to:

- Increase student awareness of drug related issues in society through the Personal Development curriculum.
- Develop understanding of the benefits and dangers associated with the use of legal and illegal drugs.
- Provide accurate and up to date information about drugs.
- Assist students to develop skills to withstand peer pressure relating to drugs.
- Enable young people to make informed decisions about the use of drugs.
- Protect students by operating a no drugs on site policy, other than approved legal drugs under controlled conditions.
- Take immediate action should potentially illegal acts relating to drugs occur.
- Co-operate fully with appropriate agencies such as the Police and Children's Services.

Under the Safeguarding policy, any drug incident disclosure is passed on to the relevant personnel within the school.

Guidance for Staff and Parents

What should I do if....?

You suspect a student is under the influence of a drug at school.

You should seek advice from or contact the relevant Head of Year. If the student is physically ill you should immediately call for assistance as you would for any other medical issue.

You suspect a student has a substance on his/her person.

This should be confidentially reported to the Assistant Headteacher responsible for the Key Stage, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher. You should note the student's name and evidence of your suspicions.

You are worried about a change of personality or mood swings in a student?

You should refer these issues to the relevant Head of Year as you would for any other emotional issue.

As a parent, if you are worried about any of the above:

Talk to your GP, your student's Head of Year or contact the following numbers and websites:

FRANK

0300 123 6600

www.talktofrank.com

DAWN (Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network)

www.changegrowlive.org/drug-alcohol-wellbeing-network-west-sussex#1