

# Drugs Education Policy Malbank School

Updated summer 2019 by Alistair Reed- Head of Character Education

## 1. Purposes

To make explicit to parents, students, staff and other interested parties:

- 1 the measures the School takes to promote education about drugs and drug-use.
- 2 the School's approach to any 'drugs-related' issues which may arise, including the possibility of drug use by members of the School.

## 2. Consultation and Advice

This policy has been drawn-up on the basis of DfEE guidelines, in consultation with teachers, students, parents, governors and advisory bodies, including:

The Regional Health Authority  
The Police Service

## 3. Context

It is implicit in the aims of the School and explicit within the School's curriculum policies that Health Education (including education concerning drugs) will form part of its work. This involves both a curricular and a pastoral dimension, including teaching, learning and an element of guidance - with directions to specialist help being made available upon request or to anyone considered to have particular need of this.

In addition to its educational functions, the School has a duty to take reasonable measures to exert influence and control in order to prevent students being exposed to harmful or inappropriate pressures or experiences in relation to drugs. School policies therefore include a disciplinary element in respect of any illegal or inappropriate use or possession of drugs by members of the School or by visitors to it.

### Scope of Drug Education Policy

For the purposes of this policy, 'drug' should be taken to include:

- prescription medicines (see policies re sick & injured children & administration of medicines)
- controlled drugs and substances
- alcohol
- tobacco
- any other substances, the misuse or abuse of which may have harmful effects or side-effects on mental or physical well-being.
- Natural and legal highs

## 4. Curricular Provision

Drugs education takes place through

- \* subjects within the national curriculum (eg sciences)
- \* religious education (eg in relation to social and moral issues)
- \* subjects outside the national curriculum (eg integrated humanities, drama, child development)
- \* post-16 courses including the sciences, social sciences, health and social care and complementary studies.
- \* Pshe (PDL)

In each case, objectives (for the course, not specifically re drugs education) are set out, with suggested materials and resources, within the relevant programme or scheme of work.

Drugs education is further provided through the School's programme of Personal and Social Education, supplemented by specific projects, typically including

- \* Lectures, discussions and debates, led by professionals in the field (eg from social services, the Police Service, the Health Authority)
- \* 'staged events' (such as authentic 'staged accidents'), involving the emergency services
- \* Health workshops using specially trained external people to deliver sessions

In each case, the work is evaluated by school staff with the assistance of other adult participants and through feedback from students (especially Key Stage Councils).

Wherever a relevant theme or a (planned or spontaneous) opportunity presents itself in other curricular contexts (for example, in art or literature) it is the policy of the School that staff should feel free to pursue open and frank discussions with students, with a view to promoting serious and responsible consideration of the themes or issues concerned. Such discussions are possible only where there is an understanding of the key facts of the matter and an appreciation of the relevance and significance of the various values and principles which arise from and contribute to people's social attitudes and moral judgements.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** (See training and pointing youngsters to appropriate advice)

Parents are actively involved (through the MSA and through parent governors) in the formulation of policy. Parents are informed by letter of any special projects or drugs-related work which may be undertaken by students outside the normal 'subject curricular' provision and are invited to discuss any matters of interest or concern in advance. They are also involved (formally or informally) in the evaluation of any such work, with a view to constantly improving the content and delivery of drugs education.

#### **STUDENTS AT RISK**

Where parents or staff suspect an individual or a group of individuals may be particularly 'at risk' of becoming involved in drugs misuse, or may have a drugs-related problem:

- parents may contact senior staff from the relevant key stage at any time; the teacher concerned will make clear that the School's primary concern is to be of assistance. If appropriate, an informal meeting with school nurse may be arranged, by mutual agreement. The conduct of any such meeting and of the staff involved will be governed by the relevant code of practice (designed by the RHA and LEA to meet statutory requirements and to promote good practice, particularly in respect of confidentiality and of child protection).
- contact numbers of several 'Helplines', for parents and students, are displayed around the School.
- staff with the sort of concern about members of the School as outlined above, should consult the appropriate Key Stage Leader, who will make further enquiries and will make early contact with parents.

In each case, discussions should have clear and purposeful outcomes, including arrangements for future review of the situation until such time as the matter is deemed closed. Parents and students must be made aware that staff must keep the Headteacher or her Deputy informed and that the School must operate according to prescribed procedures. This would not necessarily involve reporting alleged or actual drug misuse to the Police, but the Headteacher must not (and would not wish to) condone any illegal activity - still less to fail to take appropriate action to prevent this within his range of jurisdiction.

#### **4. Staff Training**

Topics such as 'teaching and learning in respect of sensitive issues' are regularly included in 'twilight' and training day activities, for all teachers (and staff are encouraged to add such information to their 'teaching and learning' files).

It is school policy to be represented at local 'briefings' arranged by police and health services, in order to ensure that members of the School can be made aware of any particular initiatives, incidents, problems or risks. (For example, under aged drinking in pubs and clubs; the presence in the locality of known drugs dealers.)

Training for lunchtime supervisors and support staff continues to be a priority, particularly in respect of recognising the signs and symptoms of drug use/misuse and of school procedures for dealing with drugs related incidents.

Every member of staff has access to a range of information concerning signs and symptoms of various types of drug misuse. Key Stage leaders and other senior staff are provided with personal copies - though the key message being incorporated into the Staff Handbook is not to engage in amateur diagnoses or advice, but to consult the KS Leader who has direct access to appropriately qualified and experienced professionals from outside school.

## 5. Code of Conducts

The Governing Body has adopted Cheshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Teachers and corresponding codes for other employees. These include sections pertaining to drugs (including alcohol) and refer to the relevant disciplinary and competency procedures which may be applied in the case of serious or persistent breaches of the code.

A code of conduct is included in Malbank School Work Planners (Years 7-11); the corresponding code for post-16 students is included in the Sixth Form Handbook.

The basic position in respect of the most common aspects of drug use as these typically affect schools is:

### MEDICINES

Special arrangements are made (through Key Stage leaders and the school nurse) for students who need to bring medicines into school on medical advice. If students must carry medicines with them, the quantities will be strictly limited.

### SMOKING

In accordance with LEA policy, Malbank School is a no-smoking school. This rule applies to everyone who uses the premises.

### DRINKING OF ALCOHOL

The Teachers' Code of Conduct sets out the position concerning alcohol. Governors have added an additional note which is included in the Staff Handbook.

Students must not bring alcohol onto the premises, nor consume alcohol (on or off the premises) during the school day. The no-drinking rule normally applies to school excursions. The rule may be relaxed with parental approval and staff agreement where participants are over the age of 18 and where moderate amounts of alcohol are made available - for example, by host families, on continental exchanges. When the School has been granted a license for the sale of alcohol or when it is holding a supervised event (for example, at MSA social events) young people under the age of 18 may be present but must not consume alcohol (even with parental knowledge).

### OTHER DRUGS

Other than in the case of necessary medicines, for which there are known and agreed procedures, no-one should bring drugs onto the premises, nor should they take drugs in or around school or attend school under the influence of drugs (as understood in the context of DfEE guidelines et al and as judged by the Headteacher and his delegate(s)).

## 6. Drugs related incidents

- Policy concerning the above is grounded on the following principles:
  - prevention is better than cure
  - education is more effective than preaching (teachers are expert educators, but not necessarily experts in drug use/misuse - or 'the drug culture')
  - warnings about the possible consequences of drugs misuse have their place, but only
  - within a wider drugs education regime

- the School's over-riding concern, should a drugs related incident occur, is with the safety and welfare of members of the school community as a whole - a point inherent in school discipline and exclusion policies.
  - a distinction is made by the School's Exclusion Policy between activities which impinge upon the ability of a member of the School to perform effectively and properly within school or which may adversely affect the performance and welfare of others - and those which do not (even though they may be deemed anti-social). This distinction reflects that incorporated in legislation and in guidance to schools concerning sanctions which may (or may not) be applied in respect of misconduct (including drugs related incidents).
  - temporary exclusion is normally considered an appropriate response to drugs-related incidents, not only as a disciplinary measure, but as part of an enabling problem-solving strategy, in which "time-out" may be necessary and/or desirable.
  - the Governing Body and Headteacher agree that permanent exclusion is not necessarily the best or only course of action available to the School in drugs-related incidents; however, they emphasise that the Headteacher will not hesitate to apply this sanction, in accordance with the School Exclusion Policy, should she consider this to be necessary in the interests of the School community.
- Any member of staff who suspects or encounters a drugs related incident should:
    - 1 follow the emergency procedures set out in the 'emergencies booklet', **IF NECESSARY.**
    - 2 normally, he or she should refer those concerned to a senior member of staff. There are established procedures in place for students found smoking or drinking alcohol. In both cases, sanctions are applied and parents informed; in the latter case, parents are contacted immediately and asked to take their child home. Whilst assistance through the school nurse and others will be offered (or insisted upon as a condition of the student's return to school), persistent offences will be treated as serious and unacceptable misconduct.
    - 3 in any case, where a suspicious substance is brought into school, this will be confiscated and handed over to the police for identification and/or analysis. The parents of the bearer(s) will take their child/children out of school pending the outcome.

Parental support for the agreed action plan will be a significant factor in the School's response to any drugs related incident. This includes, for example, agreement to undertake family counselling if necessary and appropriate.

Signed: Chairman of Governors

Signed: Headteacher

Date:

Next Review date: Autumn Term 2020