



FALINGE
PARK
HIGH
SCHOOL

Drugs and Illegal Substances Policy

Date September 2018

Opening Doors; Unlocking Potential

Document Control

Organisation	Falinge Park High School
Title	Drugs and Illegal Substances Policy
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Owner	J Allen
Subject	Procedures for addressing any misuse of drugs on school premises and outside of school
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Revision History

Revision Date	Revisor	Previous Version	Description of Revision
September 2012	G Skerrow		
July 2017	J Allen	Sep 2012	Revised fully to take into account guidance from DfE and ACPO
June 2018	J Allen	July 2018	Updated to reflect links to where additional policies have been updated. Updated to add in Safeguarding Officer Kate Stanway.

Document Approvals

This document requires the following approvals:

Approval Sought From	Name	Date
Governors	Pupil Welfare	October 2017
Governors	Full Governing Body	November 2017
Governors	Full Governing Body	October 2018

Document Distribution

This document will be distributed to:

Individual/Group	Distribution Date
SLT	July 2017; September 2018
Pastoral Team	September 2017; September 2018
Staff	Delivered through community briefings September 2017; through pastoral meetings 2018-2019
Pupils	Delivered via Tutor Time October 2017; 2018-2019

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Parents	Delivered via website and Headteacher's Letter October 2017; October 2018
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Drugs and illegal substances policy

Context and definition

A drug is a substance which affects the way the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This drugs policy covers illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, psychoactive substances such as so-called “legal-highs”, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Rationale

Our aim with our drugs education is to help all pupils live safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management and pupils, staff and parents given necessary training according to their roles and responsibilities at Falinge Park High School. In line with our Compelling Behaviour Policy, we want to develop responsible citizens both in and out of school and encourage pupils to make informed, educated choices. In response to this, it is important that we educate staff, pupils and parents about the impact of legal and illegal substances, their uses and the effect of them on an individual’s physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. We also ensure that we will look at the impact on the wider society.

Aims of the policy

- Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and all members of the community by giving clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities of staff in school, the legal position of the school in relation to drugs and how this relates to the Compelling Behaviour Policy and Exclusion Policy.
- Provide guidance on how we will develop drug education in school through the curriculum and targeted intervention.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and legal substances both on the school premises and outside of school.

Falinge Park High School will work alongside Early Help, Early Break, Social Services, parents, health care professionals, police, and other supporting agencies. It is important to recognise that the misuse of drugs can have a negative impact on the wider community and therefore we recognise that the school has an integral part to play in improving outcomes for young people in Rochdale post-16. It is also important that we respond to local changes and influences and therefore will work alongside Rochdale Borough Council’s Community Cohesion team to stay fully aware of any implications in school. The Headteacher also sits on the LCSB and Complex Safeguarding Board and will therefore keep up to date information on any local issues which may have an impact on our policy.

Development of the policy and relation to other policies

The drugs policy is based around the guidance from DFE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012) and the PSHE Association guidance on delivering drug and alcohol education in school. This policy should also be looked at in conjunction with: School Disciplinary Policy and Procedures (July 2018), Compelling Behaviour Policy (July 2018), Exclusion Policy (July 2018), Positive Handling Policy (July 2018), Exclusion Policy (July 2018), Supporting pupils with medical conditions (October 2017).

Who the policy applies to

This policy applies to all staff and pupils in the school. It applies to incidents on school trips and any incident on school premises. In the case where a pupil is known to be using drugs outside of school, this will be addressed through our Safeguarding procedures.

Role of the school

The named person for the implementation and delivery of this policy is Janice Allen, Headteacher. For liaison with police this will be via our Safeguarding Officer, Emma Rudkowskyj (and in her absence Kate Broadhurst Safeguarding Officer during 2018-2019), who will ensure the Headteacher, DSL and Deputy DSL will be informed through Safeguarding briefings. This will also include dissemination to the Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development and Welfare, Heads of Community and Mentors. This will feed into the Wave interventions as highlighted in the Compelling Behaviour Policy.

The school will:

- Provide accurate education and information on drugs and alcohol through the PSHE curriculum and Science curriculum.
- Provide relevant training for staff on controlled substances dependant on their role within school. For example, the pastoral team will receive a greater depth of training on the misuse of drugs and the impact on mental health because of their intensive work with young people.
- In cases where a pupil is thought to have drugs on their person, then the school will undertake a search of the pupil's person as per the Positive Handling Policy. This will be by two members of staff from the Pastoral team or SLT. At least one member of staff will be of the same sex.
- If illegal substances are found then these will be confiscated, stored in a clear plastic bag and kept in a locked, safe area of the school. The date and time will be recorded on the bag.
- If it cannot be determined the legal status of a drug this will be treated as a controlled drug.
- Psychoactive drugs will be treated in the same manner as controlled drugs as the substance of these may contain elements of controlled drugs.
- The school's Safeguarding Officer will notify the police who will follow the local protocols. This will usually be undertaken through the community links as part of the school's wider community cohesion work.
- The school's Safeguarding Officer will also notify any other relevant agencies and record on MyConcern.
- Parents will be notified unless, as per the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, unless it is not in the best interests of the child to do so.
- In the cases of substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, where it is found to have a negative, detrimental impact on the wellbeing of children at the school then the school will follow the sanctions in the Compelling Behaviour Policy. This will include confiscation.
- Sanctions for bringing drugs into the school premises, or possessing drugs on a school trip or visit will follow the guidance in the Compelling Behaviour Policy and Exclusion Policy.
- If a child is thought to be under the influence of drugs on the school premises then this will be treated as a medical incident in the first instance with First Aid administered. Parents will be contacted unless, as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, it is felt that it is not in the best interests of the child to

do so. In these instances, the DSL will determine if Social Services need to be informed.

- If a member of staff is found to be in possession of or under the influence of drugs then the School's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures will be followed.

Role of pupils and families

Pupils and families should be aware of what items are prohibited in school and ensure that such items are not brought into school as per the Compelling Behaviour Policy (September 2017)

Role of governors

Governors play a key role in the implementation and quality assurance of this policy. Elsie Chadwick is the lead governor for PSHE and Healthy Schools and the drugs policy falls under the remit of the Pupil Welfare Committee. Governors will receive updates termly on Governor Development Days as to patterns relating to this policy.

Responding to drug related incidents

We aim to provide a happy, safe, supportive environment where pupils feel open to discuss in an appropriate manner. To support our drugs education we will regularly review pupils' attitudes and experiences of drugs and adapt our PSHE curriculum accordingly. Where we know pupils may be using drugs, we will work with other agencies to support the child and their family. This may involve Wave 3 interventions and engagement with other agencies such as the local Early Break and Early Help teams. Drug use may be a symptom of wider problems and in these cases the school will develop support through our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. This will involve consulting with other agencies.

Managing medicines in school

For pupils with underlying medical conditions, staff will administer medicines as per the Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy, September 2017.

Equality impact statement

This policy has been designed to ensure that no member of the school is adversely affected as per the duty on schools to support the nine protected equality characteristics. The policy supports the Community Cohesion team at RBC and any advice or guidance will be sought if it is felt that drug use is adversely affecting any one of the groups affected by the Equalities Act 2010.