

Vision:

Achievement for All.

Mission:

To fulfil this through developing every child's personality, abilities and talents to the full, to be the best they can be.

Sandgate School is committed to reflecting the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child in its policies and practice. The rights of the child considered to be especially relevant to this policy include:

Right 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Right 6: Survival and development

Right 33: Children must be protected from the use of illegal drugs.

Right 36: Children must be protected from all other forms of bad treatment.

Equality Impact

This policy has been written to help safeguard all children and staff at Sandgate School. It accepts that some of our young people may come into contact with drug misuse in their environment and how we support them and not judge them because of it.

Definition – What is a drug?

A drug is a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works. This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.

The purpose of the Policy.

The school is committed to the Health and Safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to provide quality drug education and support any student in need of support to come forward.

Rationale

In response to our shared concerns at local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate the pupils on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a proactive stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the education of all the pupils.

This policy applies to all school pupils, staff, parents and other visitors to the school.

This policy applies at all times when staff are acting in loco parentis – this includes educational visits in line with the Schools Education Visits Policy. The policy applies to all pupils in school and during break and lunchtimes. It also affects the use of the school premises after normal school hours. Organisers of after-school events should be made aware of the policy and their responsibility to implement it.

Roles and Responsibilities**Head teacher**

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from outside agencies.

Governors

As part of the general responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors play a role in the implementation of the school's policy for drug education and prevention. They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of the policy.

All staff

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non – teaching, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them. This includes lunchtime supervisors and cleaning staff.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme and have access to this policy. They are responsible for ensuring that the guidelines relating to medicines in schools are followed. The school plays its part in ensuring that parents have up to date information regarding drugs. Parents have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in harm to their child – this will be handled with care and consideration. The Head teacher will consider if there are any special circumstances which may temper this right.

Aims/Objectives

The Drugs Education at Sandgate School is intended to;

- be an integral part of the School's PSHE curriculum
- Educate and inform students, to provide information in a way that is appropriate to their understanding and age.
- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge appropriate to their level.
- To give children the opportunity to develop their abilities to communicate their concerns and take responsible decisions.
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs or are aware of other people using them.

We believe that drug education is a whole school issue and as such will be addressed through the curriculum when issues of living a Healthy Lifestyle arise. Particular reference will be made in Science and PSHE where discreet sessions will cover the content however teachers may also use circle time to address issues that are important as and when they arise.

As the Health and Safety Coordinator, the Business Manager will have overall responsibility for all drug issues within the school. This responsibility will include delegating the planning and co-ordination of drug education to the PSHE lead and the management of any drug incidents to the Headteacher.

Where appropriate the school will arrange targeted interventions that may involve the use of external agencies to enhance delivery.

Class teachers will always maintain the responsibility for the overall education programme and any external contributors will be used to enhance sessions but not as a substitute teacher.

When using external contributors the school will ensure that the sessions are pre-planned and

the school will adhere to visitors guidelines for working with external visitors, including briefing them to follow our protocol, which is that staff and pupils treat each other with respect, and we expect all visitors to the school to reflect our ethos in everything they say or do. Expression of extreme views, of any type, is not permitted. A teacher will be present at all times when external contributors are delivering sessions.

Staff Support and training

All staff (teaching and non- teaching should have a general drug awareness and an understanding of the policy, including management of drug incidents.

Rules for drugs named in this policy:

Medicine - See the Medical Needs policy for information on the administration of medicines

Tobacco - The school is a no-smoking site in line with Cumbria County Guidelines

Alcohol - The possession or consumption of alcohol by pupils is banned

Solvents -The school will ensure that potentially harmful substances, including aerosols are stored safely and supervised carefully.

Illegal Substances – No illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on the premises.

Management of Drugs in school

To ensure the safety of all young people and staff the school will take possession of any drugs and deal with them in the following manner:

Illegal drugs will be confiscated, packaged in a plastic bag, envelope or evidence bag, and all details of the incident recorded and stored with them. The drugs will then be stored in a secure location –the safe at Sandgate Site or the medicine cabinet at the SGQKS site and the police will be contacted to dispose of the substances. The law does not require the school to divulge the names of any students to the police. Where the school chooses to provide this information the Police will be required to follow set internal procedures. This action should be witnessed by at least two members of staff. No one should attempt to identify the substance by tasting them and should not leave the school premises with any substances in their possession.

In the case of other drugs (alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and medicines) the school will confiscate the substances, store them securely as above and will contact parents/guardians re the incident. Parents will be invited to school to discuss the incident and any consequences of breaking school rules. At this, the substances will be returned to the parents.

In both these situations the school:

- (a) May choose not to inform parents/carers if the safety of the young person is jeopardised. At this point the school's child protection officer must be involved.
- (b) Will search pupil property. School property e.g. trays can be searched and this action will be witnessed. The pupil's consent will be sought but is not required if the school believes an offence has been committed.
- (c) Will make every effort to ensure the school grounds are kept free of any drug paraphernalia. In the case of needles and syringes, they will be placed in a secure container, using gloves. The school will then contact the Local Police or Environmental Health to discuss the disposal of the paraphernalia.

The school acknowledges that any response taken dealing with drug related issues must balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community. Information regarding young people's need in relation to drug use will come from a variety of sources, not just a response to an incident. All evidence will be examined before proceeding with any action and will take a wide range of response into consideration.

Pastoral Support

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of all pupils. To reinforce this, any actions will be taken in line with the school's behaviour policy. In all cases the pupil and their family will be offered help and support from the school or from partnership agencies.

Limits of Confidentiality

Pupils disclosing information about their own or others drug use should be reminded that a teacher cannot offer absolute confidentiality.

Dealing with the Media

As the issue of drug use is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the media, the school will take appropriate advice from the LEA media team and legal department to ensure any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young person, their families and the school.

Useful Documents

Drugs - Guidance for Schools (2004)

The Updated Drug Strategy (2002)

National Healthy Schools Standard QCA Curriculum Guidance (2002)

Cumbria Schools Drug Policy Framework

This policy relates to and should be read in conjunction with the schools PHSE policy, Medical Needs policy, Behaviour policy, Safeguarding Policy and Health and Safety Policy.