



DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Friesland School is a caring community. We recognise that we live in a society in which drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances are available. We believe we have an obligation to inform and empower our students to enable them to make decisions that will result in them enjoying a healthy, active and responsible lifestyle.

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'drug' will refer to any non-life sustaining substance that enters the body and alters the physical, emotional or mental state of the individual and can change the way they feel, think or behave.

- Friesland School does not condone the misuse of drugs by members of the school nor the supply of these substances.
- Friesland School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.
- Friesland School acknowledges the importance of its role in safeguarding the welfare of young people and through the ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward and receive help.

PRINCIPLES

Friesland School believes that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

We believe that the education of our students is a partnership between the home and school. Drug misuse is an issue for parents and the local community as well as for the school. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is increasing there are far larger numbers of them who choose not to use such substances. We will strive to affirm and support their decision.

Role of the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral and Safeguarding)

The Headteacher will take overall responsibility for:

- Liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies
- The provision of adequate training and support for all staff

The Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral and Safeguarding) will:

- The policy and its implementation
- Have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy

The Key Stage Managers will:

- Be responsible for the co-ordination of the drug education programme.
- Ensure that the school and Governors are aware of up-to-date educational good practice and necessary training needs.

Drug Education

"Young people are influenced by their parents, youth culture, the media, their peers and others – but education can play a key role in ensuring that young people know the risks of drug taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist. Schools alone cannot "solve" the problems of drug misuse in society but an effective programme of drug education in schools can be an important step in tackling it."

DFES GUIDANCE ON DRUG PREVENTION AND SCHOOLS

At Friesland School we believe and support the following education aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing coping skills
- To provide accurate information about substances

- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- To seek to minimise the risk that users and potential users face.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curriculum activities. We teach drug education mainly through PSHE, Science and English areas but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The school nurse operates a 'drop-in' session once a week for students who wish to discuss health issues in confidence.

Management of Drug Incidents

We acknowledge that there will still be some young people of school age who will choose to experiment with illegal drugs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist peer pressure. With this in mind it is necessary for us to have clear procedures for dealing with drug related incidents on school premises and for working with other services concerned with young people to offer appropriate advice and support.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and we recognise that a variety of responses incorporating both sanctions and counselling, will be necessary to deal with incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action we may take, seeking to balance the interests of the student involved, the other members of the school and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be used as a last resort.

The school is aware of its legal obligations with regard to these issues. The school will continue to work closely with the school's Police Liaison Officer and other external agencies on all issues relating to drug incidents with our students.

Within the Inclusion System of the school we will continue to nurture an ethos that enables students to feel confident enough to discuss problems or concerns with staff.

The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral and Safeguarding) will take overall responsibility for co-ordinating the schools' approach to drug incidents.

Signed by the Headteacher: _____

Dated: _____

Signed by the Chair of Governors: _____

Dated: _____

Procedures for dealing with drug related incidents



Key: ✓ This relates to possible strategies to be used dependent on individual situations.

Procedure	Recognise & Drug related	Confiscate	Remove student from circulation	Contact Parents	Record in student file	Counselling int/ext services	Parents collect immediately	Inform Police/external services	Fixed Term Exclusion	Final warning	Permanent exclusion
Offence											
Graffiti	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jewellery/Clothing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
In Possession of											
Cigarettes or smoking paraphernalia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
E-cigarettes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Alcohol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Drug use accessories	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Syringes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Legal highs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Use/under the influence of during school hours/on school site											
Cigarettes (E-cig)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Alcohol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Legal highs	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Illegal Drugs											
1 st Offence – Use or possession	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 nd Offence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suspicion of use or involvement	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Supplying	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓