

**CATOR PARK SCHOOL**  
**DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY AND DRUGS INCIDENT POLICY**

**A. Responsibility of Deputy Head/Assistant Head Teachers**

***Introduction***

The aim of the drugs education policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.

A drugs education policy ensures that Cator Park takes a whole school approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drugs education and students, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drugs-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's discipline policy.

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack cocaine and LSD.

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when students are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for students who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

**B. Aims**

1. We aim, through drugs education, to enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices.
2. We aim to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all members of our school community. We will take action in cases of drugs misuse to safeguard the well-being of all.
3. We aim to deliver Drugs Education in the context of the school as part of the community. Schools *alone* cannot solve the problem of drug misuse in society but through an effective programme of drug education, including approaches to alcohol abuse, at Cator Park we can take an important step in tackling it.

**C. Objectives**

The objectives of drugs education are:

- To provide opportunities for all students to acquire knowledge and understanding about drugs use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for students to develop the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs.
- To provide a structured, coherent and progressive programme that is delivered through the PSHCE and Science curriculum, as part of our Health Education Policy.

**D. Implementation**

***Principles***

At Cator Park we are aware of the harm drugs can cause and have due concern for the health and welfare of our students and where appropriate will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.

The school recognises its responsibility, as part of a community-wide response, to offer balanced education to all students in relation to all forms of drugs use. This will seek to influence students in making informed decisions about drugs.

We are clear that bringing in or using drugs on the school premises is unacceptable and is a disciplinary matter.

The school is committed to working with other agencies involved in combating drugs misuse.

### ***Procedures***

In case of drugs misuse:

- We will consider any incident involving the use of drugs individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with such incidents.
- We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken. In particular we will consider the needs of the student, those of the school community and the situation with regard to the law.
- We recognise the need to work in partnership with parents/carers and will inform them, in general terms, about the school's drugs policy.
- We actively co-operate with other agencies e.g. Youth and Community Police, Social Services and local community Drug Action and Services groups to deliver our commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents involving drugs.

The Headteacher delegates overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation to the Deputy Head. The Year Leaders have general responsibility for the daily implementation of the policy. The Year Leaders will act as the school's drug education co-ordinators, supported by their line manager, the Deputy Head. The Deputy Head and the Year Leaders will take responsibility for co-ordinating the review of school policy on an annual basis.

The Drugs Education programme is provided in the context of:

- National Curriculum Science at Key Stages 3 and 4
- Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise Education
- The Tutorial Programme

Other opportunities to reinforce learning may occur in other parts of the teaching programme, e.g. in Religious Education.

Training and support is provided for teachers in the planning and delivery of drugs education.

Confidential counselling facilities, both inside and outside the school, are available to students should they need them. For teachers and parents, advice on and access to those facilities is available via the Deputy Head, Assistant Head Teachers and Year Leaders.

External agencies and outside professionals are involved in supporting work done in lessons. This team of practitioners is largely drawn from the:

- LEA through the Health Education Co-ordinator
- Police through the Schools' Liaison Officer (School Beat Officer)
- Agencies through Specialist Agencies/Services

### ***Drugs Education***

The school provides a planned drugs education curriculum as part of PSHCE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs Education will:

- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

In the main teachers teach drugs education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school drugs policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the LEA and health and drugs agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

Resources are carefully selected to support and inform our in-house drugs education programme. Up-to-date materials produced by outside organisations are integrated into the programme.

### ***Management of Drugs Related Incidents***

The Headteacher and Governors will consider very carefully the implications of any action they may take, seeking to balance the interests of the student[s] involved, the other school members and the local community.

The Headteacher will ensure that she and delegated staff [usually the Deputy Head, Assistant Head Teachers and Year Leaders] deal with drugs related incidents in a consistent and effective manner.

Each situation requires its own **individual** response and will involve a **counselling or disciplinary** approach, or a combination of both.

Incidents of drugs misuse are likely to come to light through:

- disclosure
- suspicion/rumour
- discovery/observation

In the case of disclosure whereby a student discloses to a member of staff she has been using drugs, the counselling approach is most likely, with the effects of passing on the information disclosed having to be carefully assessed.

With **suspicion/rumour** staff must be careful about taking direct action. The Deputy Head, Assistant Head Teacher and appropriate Year Leaders must be kept informed and evidence collected over a period of time. A decision to confront the individual or group will be made in consultation with the Deputy Head, Assistant Head Teacher and appropriate Year Leaders.

If a student is discovered or observed to be using or carrying a substance that is not permitted on school premises, or is thought to be illegal, the substance will be confiscated and the Deputy Head immediately involved.

Disciplinary action in the form of exclusion, up to and including permanent exclusion, will be taken following discovery that a student is in possession of drugs, has been using drugs or is supplying drugs on the school premises or during school jurisdiction. Parents/carers will be made aware at the earliest opportunity of the school's findings and the proposed course of action. This will involve informing our Police Liaison Officer.

In the context of drugs related incidents only the Headteacher will deal with the media or, in her absence, the Senior Deputy Headteacher, or in his absence, another Deputy Headteacher.

## **E. Evaluation**

The content and methods used in Drugs Education will be monitored and evaluated by the Year Leader in liaison with key staff. Drugs education provision is co-ordinated by Year Leaders and the Deputy Head Teacher.

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and in the event of any legislation changes and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

## **ENTITLEMENTS**

### **Students:**

- I. Should be provided with a planned and structured programme of drugs education that
  - gives accurate information
  - increases knowledge and understanding
  - develops skills
  - challenges attitudesin order to enable them to make healthy, informed and responsible choices now and later in life.
- II. Should be offered help and support if they become involved with drugs.
- III. Should feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drugs related problem.
- IV. Should be made aware that drugs should not be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or on holidays, field trips and visits organised by the school and that sanctions will be applied as outlined in the School's Behaviour Policy.

### **Teachers:**

- I. Required to organise and deliver drugs education within PSHCE and other areas of the curriculum should be equipped to do so.
- II. Should use teaching methods that are varied but seek to deliver comprehensive, unbiased and accurate information which young people can use to make informed decisions and also to develop the skills to cope with drug situations.

- III. Should seek advice from the Deputy Head/Assistant Headteachers/Year Leaders on when to adopt a counselling or disciplinary approach towards a student. The limits of confidentiality should be made known to a student when counselling him/her.
- IV. Should know the procedures to follow in referring drugs related incidents to other staff, including illness linked to suspected drugs use.
- V. Should be alert to warning signs which may indicate that a student is misusing drugs.
- VI. Should be aware of the guidelines relating to reactive procedures to follow in emergency/intoxication situations.
- VII Will have access to regular training

**Parents/carers:**

- I. Should be aware of what information is given to students and have access to it.
- II. Should feel able to contact the school about an out of school drugs related problem.
- III. Should be aware of the school's rules concerning drugs.
- IV. Should expect to be contacted if their daughter is caught breaking school rules on drugs and understand punishment will be a school matter, possibly involving consultation with outside agencies.

**Governors:**

- I. Should, in consultation with the school community, contribute to the development of an 'in-house' policy.
- Should have access to drugs information and training.

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