

Drugs & Alcohol Misuse Policy



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
'EXCELLENCE FOR ALL'



Ratified by Governors: 6th February 2018
To be reviewed: February 2019



Riverside Bridge School

DRUGS & ALCOHOL MISUSE POLICY

Review Frequency: Annually

Date of ratification: February 2018

Date next review due: February 2019

Scope of Procedure / Policy: This Procedure / Policy applies to all staff, students, governors and volunteers at Riverside Bridge School

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

i) The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

ii) The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will act to safeguard their wellbeing in all school related activities.

iii) The dangers of drug misuse are well known. It imposes a huge cost in terms of human suffering, lost opportunities, deaths and fear on the individuals who misuse drugs, the families and friends who have to cope with the consequences of their drug misuse and the communities in which they live.

iv) The school acknowledges the detrimental educational effects of substance misuse on pupils' achievement and recognises the responsibility of all members of the school community to provide positive role models.

v) A recent survey showed that national drug usage is greater than local, but that our pupils use is higher than pupils at other local schools. (*Adolescent Lifestyle Survey. University of Wales. November 1999.*)

vi) Riverside Bridge School recognises that many students/pupils have medication needs so drugs education will be sympathetically taught, so as not to confuse the students/pupils.

2.0 PURPOSE

i) The school believes it has a duty to provide all pupils with appropriate, up-to-date and accurate information on which to build their decisions about drugs.

ii) Pupils need an opportunity to develop skills by exploring the circumstances and situations in which knowledge may be applied. Understanding needs to accompany this knowledge, together with the skills to apply this understanding. This has to be developed through reflection, discussion and experiential learning within the safe environment of school.

3.0 GUIDLINES

3.1 The Drug Co-ordinator's job description

i) The Drug Education Co-ordinator will be a member of the Senior Management Team.

ii) The Drug Co-ordinator will have a written job description as part of their continuing professional development.

3.2 Staff training

i) All school staff (teaching and non-teaching) will have access to appropriate and regular training in drug education.

3.3 Outside Agencies

i) The involvement of outside agencies, such as drug agencies or school nurse, is a valuable addition to the expertise of the school's teaching staff.

ii) The curriculum delivered will be planned and supervised by the school, in accordance with the National Curriculum, National Healthy School Standard, and will follow local and national guidance.

3.4 Lead Governor

i) A member of the governing body will be appointed as Lead Governor with governing body responsibility in drug-related matters.

ii) Training in drug education will be given to build governor expertise and acknowledge their level of responsibility such as attendance at the annual governor training at The Westbury Centre.

3.5 Guidelines

i) The Drug Education programme and any drug related incidents will follow the guidelines in the three documents:

1. The Right Choice
2. The Right Approach
3. The Right Response

These documents nationally endorsed by DfES, OFSTED and QCA, have been adopted by the DAT and were issued to all LEA schools in 2000. They form the basis for all drug education work at this school as with others in the LEA.

ii) The school will have set procedures in place when dealing with drug related incidents. These will relate to, for example, the recording of the incident, disposal or confiscation of drug, liaison with police, confidentiality and its limits, sanctions and support of the pupil(s) involved.

iii) First aid procedures when dealing with a drug related incident will be accessible, and the school will have a designated first aider.

iv) The school will have a contingency plan when dealing with any drug related incident that results in a tragedy.

v) The school will have set procedures in place for the management of children taking medicines in school.

3.6 Links with other policies

i) The Drug Education policy links and is consistent with all other school policies, particularly the PSHE policy, school behaviour policy and structures, for example home/school agreement, action plans etc.

3.7 Definition of a drug

i) The term drug means all substances capable of misuse. These include alcohol, tobacco, medicines and prescribed drugs, volatile substances, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack cocaine and LSD.

3.8 Monitoring and evaluation

i) The Drug Education programme will be regularly monitored as other curriculum areas. Amendments will be brought about to improve its effectiveness and to maintain its relevance to the whole school.

3.9 Cross-phase liaison

i) Cross-phase liaison will be ensured through adherence to the QCA Drug Education Plan and National Curriculum Science. The Drug Education curriculum should demonstrate a coherent progression through all Key Stages.

4.0 Funding

i) The Drug Education programme, within PSHE, will be funded to maintain the relevance of resources, the regular updating of staff professional development in line with national and local guidance and other appropriate stimuli such as theatre in education.

Exclusions

i) The school behaviour and discipline policy will accommodate any drug related incidents. Clear guidance will be issued and regularly updated regarding the management of drug related incidents and exclusions.

14. Liaison with parents/carers

i) Parental involvement will be sought through the normal effective channels of communication such as a letter home, Governors AGM, governing body meetings or parent association.

15. Pupil/student input

i) Student input is an important component of the Drug Education policy and programme. Student views will be sought via the ALQ survey, School Council and circle time.

16. Location of the policy

i) The policy will be located within the Staff Handbook and LRC.

17. What drugs will be covered

i) Drugs covered will reflect the relevant planning taught in Years 10 and 11.

18. To whom the policy relates and where

- i) This policy relates to all members of the school during school and extended hours, both on the school premises and its environs. Visitors to the school must adhere to the policy.
- ii) Trips organised by the school will accommodate the policy in accordance with LEA and national guidance.

19. Drug Education clearly identified within the PSHE programme

i) The Drug Education programme will be an essential element of the PSHE planning especially in Years 10 and 11.

20. The Media

- i) The Headteacher will be responsible for dealing with any media enquiries.
- ii) The school will endeavour to respect the privacy of all individuals concerned.