



The Fernwood School

High Achievement with Care & Discipline for All

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated so that it remains responsive to current issues. This will be co-ordinated by the Health and Drugs Co-Ordinator.

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Adopted: October 2014



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Introduction

This policy encompasses all drugs - alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, novel psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and volatile substances unless otherwise specified. The term ‘drugs’ will be used throughout the policy to refer to all of the drugs mentioned above, unless specified. It may also encompass substances alleged to be drugs.

Whilst we have low levels of drugs misuse at The Fernwood School, we strongly believe that it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated here. We take the use of drugs seriously and hope that all students and parents feel confident in our ability to respond appropriately. In many schools, the use of drugs can be prevalent, particularly tobacco, we must therefore work together to prevent this in our school.

The Fernwood School endeavours to fulfil its commitment to ‘High Achievement with Care and Discipline for All’ as stated in the school motto. It is essential therefore, that we all try to look after each other and accept our responsibility and vested interest in keeping the school a safe place. The school is committed to a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs by students, staff or visitors, nor the illegal supply of these substances is condoned.

This Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy is intended to help ensure that:

- Students feel safe, happy and motivated
- Students, parents and all members of staff know what to do when drug related incidents occur
- Sanctions for those involved in drug related incidents are clear and consistently followed
- We promptly offer support to those that use or misuse drugs

There are many opportunities in school to address some of the issues related to the use and misuse of drugs and for our students to become aware of the effects and consequences of such behaviour. Drug Education is a vital part of our Personal, Social and Health Education for every student. We recognise and try to prepare our students for some of the choices and decisions required in a society where the use of drugs is present.

Our Year 10 students feel that this policy is important to ensure that:

- ‘we can ensure the safety of our students and staff’
- ‘both the teachers and the students know the consequences’
- ‘we stop kids from ruining their lives and education’
- ‘Fernwood keeps a good reputation’

The Drugs Co-ordinators in our school are:

Mrs M Morrill (KS3) and Mr S Roe (KS4)

The nominated Governor with responsibility for drugs issues is:

Mr P Irons



Boundaries of this Policy

This policy encompasses all drugs - alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, novel psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified. It may also encompass substances alleged to be drugs.

The policy will be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school. In addition, it will also apply out of school, when this behaviour impacts on the life of the school.

- Drugs can affect an individual’s health, body or mind, some worse than others and if misused they can be harmful or even result in death
- There are drugs that are used as medicines, to cure illness or reduce pain
- The school acknowledges that parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child’s health and should provide us with information about their child’s medical condition when appropriate

Our Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but also on all school visits and trips, including those made outside of normal school hours.

Curriculum

Effective drug education requires students to develop their understanding of drugs issues and appropriate skills and attitudes to assist them in making informed decisions.

This provision will be supported by the school’s commitment to a healthy environment, in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances i.e.: tobacco and alcohol) by students, staff or visitors, nor the illegal supply of these substances is condoned.

Drug education is a compulsory part of Science in the National Curriculum and is also taught at an appropriate level through each key stage during Personal Social, Health & Economic Education lessons.

Drug-related incidents

All students associated with the misuse of drugs will be held to account for their behaviour using clear sanctions. However, we also need to acknowledge that some incidents are more serious than others and should be treated as such: Important factors to be considered are the type of drugs used, individual levels of involvement and the encouragement of others to participate which could include the passing and/or selling of substances alleged to be drugs. It must be emphasised however that those involved in illegal drug related incidents are likely to be permanently excluded.

The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with the wider issue of the health and safety of the whole school community. Any sanctions enforced will reflect the seriousness of the incident and be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour (where smoking, alcohol and illegal drug related incidents are clearly identified) exclusions and equalities.

After immediate medical needs have been addressed the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and an assessment made of the needs of the students involved.

We recognise that any student misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency. Please note however that under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:



'It is an offence for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug.'

Sanctions for those that use drugs or alcohol:

All students associated with the misuse of drugs will be held to account for their behaviour using the sanctions below. However, we also need to acknowledge that some incidents are more serious than others and should be treated as such.

For tobacco related incidents:

- The immediate people involved and any witnesses will be interviewed
- All parents/carers of students involved will be informed
- A minimum sanction of a school detention will be issued

For the use of illegal drugs and alcohol, in addition to the above:

- Students will be placed in the BSU or Study Support during the investigation
- The parents of the main offenders will be invited into school for a meeting
- The Police will be invited in to collect any illegal items
- The Police will be informed for any dealing (selling or sharing) of drugs
- The Police will be informed of any relevant intelligence

Individual levels of involvement and encouragement of others to participate will influence the sanction set by the school. It must be emphasised however, that **those involved in illegal drug related incidents are likely to be permanently excluded.**

Support for those that use drugs or alcohol:

We feel very strongly that in addition to our agreed sanctions, any student linked to a drugs incident will need support to improve their behaviour. Attempting to find out why they have behaved or are behaving in such a way is essential - this will almost always require work with the user and their parent/carer. In addition time should be taken to ensure that the student realises the impact of their actions on themselves, other students, staff as well as their parents.

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students we will provide students with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drugs issues, in relation to their own or another's drug-use. This support may include:

- Education booklets to be completed at home with parents or at school with a member of staff
- An NGAGE assessment (a method of looking at the different influences that may be part of a young person's life) conducted by a trained member of staff
- A referral to the school nurse
- A referral to a trained drug support worker from COMPASS to provide the opportunity to discuss individual needs in relation to drugs and alcohol and to assess if further support is needed
- Support from the Head of Year, Head of School or Deputy Head

Students who ask for support before any known offence has been committed will be supported and not excluded. This support however, will not prevent the following of school sanctions for any subsequent offences. (See the section on 'Advice for students').



Advice for students

When asked how to keep the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco out of our school our students advised:

- To go straight to a teacher, if you know that drugs, alcohol or smoking are taking place in this school
- Not to promote drugs or brag about drug use
- To act quickly – report what you have seen
- Discuss with one friend what to do –don't spread rumours by telling all your friends
- Tell a teacher or someone you trust and let them sort it out

If you have used or are using drugs, alcohol or tobacco and would welcome advice and support please choose one of the following options:

Students who ask for support before any known offence has been committed will be supported and not excluded. We aim to offer early support to pupils in relation to their own or others' drug use. To access support students could:

1. Contact COMPASS directly (for specialist advice and support with drugs and alcohol only).
2. See a member of staff who will inform Mrs Morrill or Mr Roe who will then organise either:
 - a referral to COMPASS for specialist support with drugs and alcohol or
 - Arrange an appointment with our school nurse (for smoking, drugs or alcohol advice).
3. Students could arrange to see the school nurse for a confidential appointment.

Services and support are also signposted in Personal Development lessons

If a referral to COMPASS is made:

- *Parents will be informed unless the young person is at risk of significant harm if parents are informed or where there is a criminal investigation pending which may be adversely affected*
- *The school will support the student to receive intervention in school where possible*
- ***This support will not prevent the following of school sanctions for any subsequent offences***

Advice for parents

If your child tells you that they are using drugs or you suspect that they are, it is really important that you do your research, so that you can talk to your child knowledgeably. You will find useful contact listed in the section below "Other Sources of Information. Alternatively, you could contact the school for further guidance.

Guidance for staff

It takes a lot of courage for students to inform on drug use. Please praise students for the giving of information.

Any suspicion of drug use must be reported to the Drugs Co-ordinator/s immediately who will then co-ordinate the appropriate action.

An investigation to clarify the use of drugs will almost always be necessary. Although staff conducting the investigation will try to keep the names of witnesses out of the public arena, it cannot always be guaranteed.



Searching students and their possessions:

- The Headteacher can authorise a search of students or their possessions (including bags and lockers) without their consent if there are reasonable grounds for doing so
- The conduct of student searches is a power available to Headteachers or staff acting under the direction of the Headteacher only
- The police will be called for students that refuse to comply with a search

Confidentiality:

As with any child protection issue, it is important to restrict the sharing of information about an incident to the minimum, as necessary ('need to know' basis). It is important that students are made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help in retaining the trust of students and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum.

Consultation:

This policy was produced using full involvement and consultation from Fernwood students, parents, staff and school Governors. Students in three PSHE groups were part of the consultation, as were selected members of the Governing Body. The policy was then collated by the Drugs Co-ordinators and presented as draft for further consultation to:

- All student Council Representatives in Year 10
- The PTA
- Selected Governors
- The parents of the Y10 PSHE group who were part of the consultation
- The Senior Leadership Team

Other policies which relate to the implementation of this policy are:

- Equal opportunities policies, including Race, Gender & Disability
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- PSHE and Citizenship Policy

All policies are always available on request; they are also stored in the electronic *Staff Handbook* on the school network, and the *Policy File* in the school office.



Further sources of Information

Talk to Frank: <http://www.talktofrank.com>

NHS - <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/drugs/Pages/Drugsandyourkids.aspx>

<http://www.nottinghamcity.nhs.uk/-healthy-living-/alcohol.html>

Compass Young People's Services (for drugs and alcohol advice and support) – free phone 0800 021 7784

Compass **Adult** Service (for drugs and alcohol advice and support) – 0115 9114490

New Leaf - <http://www.nottinghamcity.nhs.uk/-healthy-living-/smoking/216-new-leaf-stop-smoking-service.html>

Recovery - <http://www.recoveryinnottingham.co.uk/> - 0300 300 2200