

## **THEALE GREEN SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY**

### **Purpose and Background**

This policy covers the use of all drugs by students whilst in school, engaged in school activities or out of school but under the scope of the Behaviour Policy. It describes school policy in relation to the use of medicines, tobacco (including e-cigarettes) and alcohol as well as illegal substances.

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body because of the changing drugs scene both nationally and locally.

### **Ethos of the school**

At Theale Green School we believe that our education should nurture the growth of talent in all our students, giving them the skills and knowledge they will need to be truly effective and constructive members of society. We aim to empower our students to be able to make connections, with ideas, with individuals and with communities. The experience of learning at our school should provide a way of living, developing skills and a thirst for life-long learning.

#### **Rationale**

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

This policy further aims:

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

### **Definition of a drug**

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol & tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter & prescription medicines. It also includes substances sometimes referred to as 'Legal Highs' – New Psychoactive Substances or NPS, many of which now come under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971).

Policy background

This policy has been written with reference to national guidelines and been informed by relevant research data.

### **Legal background**

Staff may search students suspected of being in possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other restricted substances. There is no legal requirement to record the details of such a search. Any substance believed to be harmful or detrimental to good order or discipline may be confiscated, retained and disposed of as a disciplinary penalty. Schools are not required to seek consent for such a search or inform parents or guardians that one is to take place.

### **Drugs on school premises**

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

### **Medicines**

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Local Authority Health & Safety guidelines.

The school nurse and Head of Year must be informed if a student is in need of taking medicines other than those bought over the counter. The school nurse will store and assist in the administering of medicines to students.

### **Alcohol**

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Pupils and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children.

Any sanctions imposed will reflect the seriousness of the situation and may take into account a student's past disciplinary record. The Head Teacher may impose a sanction up to and including Permanent Exclusion.

### **Smoking**

The school is a no smoking site at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed.

Any sanctions imposed will reflect the seriousness of the situation and may take into account a student's past disciplinary record. The Head Teacher may impose a sanction up to and including Permanent Exclusion.

### **E-cigarettes and related products**

The school does not allow the possession or consumption of such products on the school site. Should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed.

### **Illegal drugs**

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed.

Any sanctions imposed will reflect the seriousness of the situation and may take into account a student's past disciplinary record. The Head Teacher may impose a sanction up to and including Permanent Exclusion.

### **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of sniffable products

### **Drug- related incidents**

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or pupils using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or pupils using drugs

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance as outlined in The Right Responses. The member of SLT with responsibility for Pastoral Care will oversee the school's response to such incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

### **Responses to drug-related incidents**

The first priority in dealing with an incident is to ensure the health and safety of pupils.

When a drug-related incident has been suspected or reported, The Head or Year and/or a member of the SLT will be informed. In order to establish the facts surrounding the incident, students may be searched and confiscation may take place. Searches will be conducted with 2 members of staff present. Should substances banned from school be found, they will be recorded by the Head of Year. Parents or carers are likely to be informed.

Statements may also be taken to establish the facts around the incident. Whilst efforts will be made to ensure discretion, under safeguarding procedures, absolute confidentiality cannot be promised or guaranteed.

Incidents will thus be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded in a timely manner.

Parents will be informed about the nature of the incident and the sanction imposed. Police will be informed if there is a suspicion of a student participating in an illegal act and their advice sought on how to proceed.

Any sanctions imposed will reflect the seriousness of the situation and may take into account a student's past disciplinary record. The Head Teacher may impose a sanction up to and including Permanent Exclusion.

### **Support for pupils**

Following actions to preserve safety, the health & emotional needs of pupils will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral.

### **Strategies for Preventing Drug Misuse**

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and welfare of our pupils we at Theale Green School have developed the following strategies to promote awareness of the dangers of drug use and misuse.

- Rights Resecting Schools Programme
- PSHE curriculum content on drug use and misuse
- Regular assemblies on drug use and misuse
- Visiting speakers discussing issues around drugs
- Student voice
- Peer mentoring schemes
- Parent information events/information
- Staff training and development for all staff
- Counselling and/or Mediation schemes

### **Links with other policies**

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- PSHE and Citizenship Policy
- Complaints policy
- Confidentiality Policy

### **Management of Policy**

**School:** This policy is implemented and managed by the member of SLT with responsibility for Pastoral Care.

**Governing Body:** The Governing Body has delegated the oversight, review and update of this policy to The Head Teacher.

**Approval:** Approved by the Head teacher 28 April 2017

**Date of next review:** Spring 2020