



Drug Education and Responses to Misuse of Substances Policy

Rationale

In the light of the fact that substance use can affect all sections of the community, both locally and nationally, whether by direct use or as a result of another's use, Tor Bridge High will provide access for all its students to a programme of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education as outlined in the Government's National Drug Strategy. In formulating this policy we have consulted with the Harbour Centre and the Plymouth's Drugs Advisor. The procedure relating to the managing of drug related incidents is in line with guidance provided by Plymouth Local Authority. The Legislation to which this policy links is:

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Temporary Class Drug Orders 2012
- Psychoactive Substances Bill 2015

The statutory element will be delivered through the Science curriculum, but in order to maximise its effectiveness the greater part of the programme will be delivered through the Personal, Social and Health Education Curriculum. This curriculum will take account of the developmental needs of the students and provide relevant and accurate information on which they may base decisions. The programme will utilise a range of teaching methods, with awareness that interactive methods of drug education are most effective in engaging students. Methods will provide opportunities for information to be explored, as well as received and then of attitudes to be considered in the light of new information.

Definition of the term 'drug' within this policy includes illegal substances covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, over the counter and prescription medicines, and is defined as any chemical substance that brings out a change in a person's emotional state, body functioning or behaviour. By definition caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and prescribed medicines, solvents and illegal drugs are all contained within the spectrum of substances known as drugs. As defined in the Bill (2015) a psychoactive substance 'produces a psychoactive effect in a person if, by stimulating or depressing the person's central nervous system, it affects the person's mental functioning or emotional state'. Therefore, these new psychoactive substances must be included under this policy. For the purposes of this document the term 'drugs' will be used to describe substances which are potentially harmful, or are capable of misuse, including some whose possession and use are illegal.

1 Structure of the policy.

The policy comprises two interrelated sections.

- Drug Education - the structure of the curriculum, approaches used and the personnel responsible for co-ordination and implementation.
- Dealing with drug related incidents - the procedures that would apply in the events of evidence of use, suspected possession and suspected dealing or sharing. Personnel responsible for co-ordination and action.

The context in which the policy applies

The policy is directly linked with our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Health and Safety policy, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions policy, our strong commitment for Healthy Schools and safeguarding for all individuals at Tor Bridge High.

2 Aims

This policy is formulated in the context of a school where:

- Health Education is viewed as a vital part of the Personal and Social Education of all full time students (11 to 19);
- The maintenance of a healthy lifestyle is stressed as being the responsibility of each individual;
- An effective pastoral system exists to provide support and guidance for all students; there are clear expectations for high standards of personal and interpersonal behaviour;
- Parents / Carers of our students are actively encouraged, as partners with the School, in promoting the education and welfare of their children;
- A no smoking policy operates throughout the campus and the misuse of any drug by any member of the School is clearly presented as unacceptable.
- The curriculum reflects the needs of all students, including vulnerable, cultural, religious and special needs.

The explicit aims are as follows therefore:

- To enable students to make informed decisions and choices
- To promote self-esteem and enable students to develop a sense of self-worth
- To enable students to develop personal initiative and to be able to take responsibility
- To develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- To increase students' knowledge about medicines and their usage within a climate to be healthy
- To increase student knowledge about alcohol, tobacco, legal and illegal drugs (including psychoactive substances frequently known as legal highs) within a climate of learning to be healthy
- To enable students to consider the short and long term consequences of substance use and to develop the ability to assess risk
- To enable students to give and to access help and support in age appropriate situations
- To make appropriate links with parents/carers and outside agencies.

The policy is formulated in the knowledge that the number of people in society who use and misuse substances are increasing. At the same time larger numbers of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. The School is committed to supporting the needs of both groups

This policy applies to all staff, Parents/ Carers, Governors and partner agencies working with our school, and students 11-19 whilst in our premises and more specifically for our students for the duration of the school day, including travel to and from school.

POLICY ON DRUG EDUCATION

Drug education will feature as a declared part of the curriculum for both Science and Personal, Social and Health Education in Key stages 3 and 4. In Science it is covered in the KS3 programme of study based on the National Curriculum and the KS4 Biology component of the GCSE course.

The aim of drug education will be to enable students to make healthy, informed choices concerning their present and future use of drugs.

Whilst we aim to provide accurate factual information we will stress the inherent dangers; including physical, emotional, social and economic outcomes if substances are misused. Teachers involved in the teaching of drug education will be required to update themselves on current information and teaching approaches. It will be the responsibility of the Curriculum Leader and Lead teacher of PSHE to arrange the necessary CPD to facilitate this and the ongoing familiarisation of all school staff with drug related issues.

Partner agencies are involved in the drug education programme to enhance and support the work of the class teacher. The effectiveness of the drug education programme will be annually evaluated by students and staff, and modified according to need.

As part of the programme of drug education students will be informed of the services of drug support agencies from which they might receive support in the event of personal misuse or concern about drugs. Students will be informed that unconditional confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in the event of a personal disclosure concerning the use of drugs. A teacher who considers a student to be in physical or moral danger from the misuse of drugs should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Head of School (DSL/HoS). The DSL/HoS will be responsible for deciding if the case should be referred to parents or other agencies.

The DSL will be responsible for the dissemination and review of this policy.

POLICY FOR DEALING WITH DRUG INCIDENTS

A drug incident is understood to refer to any situation where a drug* ('drug' within this policy includes illegal substances covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) or drug use presents itself in such a way as to cause concern or to present a risk to any member of the School.

The management of drug related incidents will, as far as possible, comply with the wider **Behaviour for Learning Policy** operating at Tor Bridge High including The Use of Force and Restraint Policy. There will be however some situations where a drug incident is seen as unique or worthy of special consideration. The policy is consistent with the views of the school in that:

- The misuse of substances carries with it the clear risks of short term and longer term physical, social and psychological damage;
- The use of substances with the intention of altering the physical or mental state is a possible denial of personal responsibility;

- The use or supply of illegal substances are acts that under no circumstances can be condoned;
- A person shown to be misusing drugs is entitled to support and guidance;
- It is the behaviour that may be deemed unacceptable rather than the young person him/herself.

The DSL and HoS are responsible for:

- Co-ordinating all responses to drug related incidents;
- Liaison with referral agencies;
- Monitoring, with the Lead teacher of PSHE, the extent of drug misuse within the School;
- Ensuring that this policy is operated as set out;
- The review of the policy on an annual basis.

3 Health and Safety

The School site will be regularly checked for signs of drug misuse.

Any concerns that the premises or grounds are being used for activities which would endanger young people will be referred to the Police.

4 Action in the event of illness or inappropriate behaviour resulting from possible substance misuse.

The School agreed policy for dealing with First Aid emergencies will be applied. This will include a consideration of the criteria for referral to a hospital accident and emergency department.

The possibility that the symptoms may be related to a medical condition rather than drug misuse will be checked against any medical notes and prescription details in records.

Any substance and/or equipment will be removed, sealed and stored in a sealable bag provided by the Police and registered with the Police. Where applicable, the substance will be sent with the casualty to a hospital.

In the event of substances being viewed as suspicious the Police will be notified.

The DSL/HoS will oversee the emergency, complete a report, following the procedure outlined in Annexe 1, and ensure that parents/carers are informed. The Headteacher and the Chair of Governors will be briefed as soon as possible by the DSL/HoS.

5 Suspected possession, dealing or sharing.

Staff suspecting possession should remove substances and/or equipment where possible and report suspicions to the DSL/HoS.

Students involved should be taken immediately to the DSL and the HoS or another member of the Senior Leadership Team. The student(s) will be invited to turn out their possessions and they will also be searched if members of staff have reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of drugs. A search will always involve two senior members of staff, who are the same gender as the student(s) suspected of the offence. The Headteacher will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Confiscated substances and materials will be securely stored.

Information will be collected from all concerned and the DSL/HoS will write a full and comprehensive report of the incident to be submitted to the Headteacher.

Parents will be contacted as soon as possible and asked to attend. Consideration will be given to students deemed 'at risk' - and where necessary, Social Services will be contacted.

In the event of suspicion that the substance found is illegal, the Police will be consulted to provide guidance and support according to the seriousness of the case he/she will refer to more specialist Police Officers.

A 'cooling off' period will be instigated until such time as a full enquiry is complete.

6 Sanctions and support.

All instances of the misuse, possessions or sharing of illegal substances will be viewed with the utmost seriousness.

The minimum age for smoking is 18 and schools are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises. The school provides information and support for smokers to quit e.g. promoting access to smoking cessation classes, which may be provided on the school site.

A student for whom it is proved that s/he was supplying drugs will face the probability of permanent exclusion as indicated within the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

All instances of possession, use, dealing or sharing in drugs will be referred, as a matter of course, to the Police.

Parents/carers will be informed in all cases of involvement of suspected involvement with drugs, regardless of the judgement of the seriousness.

Where a student is identified as being at risk from their drug use, parents and students will be offered support and assessment from the Harbour Centre's liaison worker, and/or other agencies as appropriate.

Tor Bridge High is committed to ensuring the General Data Protection Regulation GDPR is adhered to at all times within the schools. We will ensure that all data we are given is processed in line with our organisations Data Protection Policies and in line with your rights under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulations.

Owner:	Head of Inclusion
Date Reviewed:	September 2020
Next Review Date:	September 2021

ANNEXE 1 - WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- Who is suspected of being involved?
- Is the young person still under the influence or experiencing side effects?
- Was the substance for personal use?
- Was the intention to share or deal the substance with others?
- It is essential to substantiate the facts as the previous two points may have legal implications under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

ESTABLISH THE CONTEXT OF THE INCIDENT:

- Is bullying/peer pressure involved?
- Is it experimentation?
- Is the use of medical origin?
- Is the use to cope with the problem?
- Has the use been sustained over time?
- Is this just an isolated incident?
- Is the use recreational?

Annex 2 - Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum - this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/14

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams - Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>