



STREATHAM & CLAPHAM HIGH SCHOOL

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Deputy Head Prep	
Last review by	T. Mylne	Review date	September 2018
Date of next review		September 2021	

Prep. School

Aims and objectives

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner.

Organisation

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask

questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

The role of the Head Master

It is the responsibility of the head to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The role of the Trust

The Trust has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The Trust will support the Head Master in following these guidelines.

The Trust's policy on drugs is as follows:

- 1) To assist parents, through the education provided to pupils, in the prevention of drug or other substance abuse.
- 2) To have in place clear disciplinary procedures for dealing with any drug-related incidents, or abuse of other substances.
- 3) To provide pastoral care and support for all pupils within the context of a whole school community.

Where individual schools have their own detailed drugs policies, these will fit within the Trust-wide guidelines.

The Trust's view is that the possession, use or supply of drugs in schools or in school-related contexts **will not be condoned under any circumstances**, and will be treated as a very serious disciplinary offence. It will usually result in the offending pupil's permanent exclusion from the school.

The disciplinary sanctions are clearly set out in the Trust's exclusions procedures, a copy of which is available to parents from school offices. The police may also need to be involved. In the very rare event that exclusion is not permanent, there may be a requirement to comply with subsequent random drugs testing at the parents' expense.

The Trust also recognises the role that schools have to play in helping to prevent the misuse of drugs or similar substances. All schools have pastoral care and support schemes and seek to assist parents in preventing abuse, through educating pupils about the physical, emotional and social dangers involved. This is usually delivered through the school's PSHE programme. The consequences of committing a criminal offence will be made very clear to pupils.

The role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will if asked :

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;

Monitoring and review

The SLT on an annual basis will monitor the Drugs Education Policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the staff as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification.