



DURANTS SCHOOL – POLICY DOCUMENT

Drug Education

November 2025

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Durants School Policy on Drug Education and the Management of Drug Related Incidents

Introduction:

This policy has been developed as a guide for the senior leadership team, teachers, non-teaching staff and pupils in the delivery of effective drug education and the consistent management of drug-related incidents. Durants School is committed to promoting the health and safety of pupils and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We believe that we have a duty to educate and inform pupils about the possible consequences of drug use and misuse. Therefore drug education is an important part of our overall PSHEE programme. The school does not condone the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school and the illegal use or supply of these substances. Members of staff are expected to present themselves as exemplary role models for pupils whilst within or near the school's boundaries, on residential or school visits with pupils or when representing the school at events. The school is a smoke-free environment.

In responding to individual incidents the school recognises the need for consistency in balancing the needs of the individual(s) involved, with the welfare of the school community as a whole. This requires us to take considered steps in applying appropriate sanctions.

Some of our pupils need access to medication on a continuing basis. No drugs or medicine of any kind should be kept in the classroom. Any medication brought into school should be immediately sent to the designated member of staff who manages the pupils' care plans with support from the borough's visiting school nurse. No medication can be administered without a relevant care plan written by the designated member of staff and the pupil's parents or carers. Only staff that holds a current first aid certificate will be able to administer the medication to their pupil. The school does not keep or make available over the counter medicines or remedies.

Durants School has a number of trained first aiders to whom staff can go should they require first aid.

Drug definition:

A drug is a substance, legal or illegal, that can alter the way the mind or body works. Therefore this policy will include alcohol, tobacco products, solvents and other volatile substances, over the counter medicines and remedies, prescribed medicines including painkillers and illegal drugs.

Aims of a Drug Policy and Procedures:

- To provide a protective framework within which staff can teach and pupils can be taught.
- To help children and young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society.
- To ensure that all pupils are given opportunities to develop skills, explore attitudes, consider consequences and increase knowledge and understanding in order to make informed choices about drug use and misuse, as far as they are able.

Drug education in the curriculum:

Aims of drug education:

- Through drug education in Durants school we seek to:
- Provide pupils with accurate information about substances and dispel myths.
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use including related health and social issues.
- Develop personal and social skills such as communication, assertiveness and decision making skills.
- Develop and enhance self-esteem and self-confidence.

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- Enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- Create an environment where pupils feel able to discuss drug-related issues.

Organisation of drug education in the school:

Drugs education is taught through the formal and informal curriculum, although it is mainly covered within the PSHEE and Citizenship and Science curriculum. There is a rolling programme for PSHEE and Citizenship that ensures that there is no omission and that repetition is planned. Lessons are carefully differentiated to meet the needs all learners.

Content

The following elements of drug education are taught:

- Key Stage 3: medicine and keeping safe. How the misuse of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs affects health.
- Key stage 4/5: the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions. Prevention of drugs misuse and drug related harm. Rights and responsibility.

Teaching Approaches

- Effective drug education should encourage the active participation of young people and use a variety of teaching approaches. We therefore encourage the use of:
- Exposition
- Role play
- Brainstorming
- Group work
- Structured games
- Audio and visual aids
- Workshops and outside speakers where appropriate

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Lessons are planned, monitored and evaluated in line with the school's procedures.

Pupils' progress is assessed in line with the school's procedures (see Assessment Policy).

A designated member of staff responsible for monitoring the curriculum monitors the implementation of this policy.

Drug-related incidents

The following situations would constitute a drug-related incident:

- Pupils who have misused drugs or are under the influence of drugs/alcohol.
- Discovery of drugs/alcohol/paraphernalia on pupils.
- Supplying pupils by pupils, school staff, parents, carers, persons external to the school community.
- Disclosure.
- Suspicion or rumour.
- Drugs/alcohol/paraphernalia found on school's premises.

Boundaries and school's responsibility.

Pupils are expected to adhere to this policy once they have entered the physical boundaries of the school until they leave the same boundaries at the end of the school day. Pupils will also be expected to adhere to this policy whilst they are attending an event, on work experience placements, or on a residential or school visit, whether supervised or not. Any pupil involved in a drug-related incident on such an occasion will be dealt with according to this policy. People concerned in the management of any venue hosting an event may impose additional sanctions/procedures.

Support and/or sanctions

There will be an automatic sanction applied to any drug-related incident in school. Any response will be taken after considering all the relevant facts and information about a young person and the circumstances in which the drug-related incident came about. Depending on the severity of the incident, the Headteacher, teacher and any external agency that can extend support to the school or pupil may be involved in implementing the support and/or sanction applied. The school response will be part of a supportive network developed to ensure that the school uses its power to protect the long-term welfare of all the pupils in the school.

These are a range of possible responses that the school may implement:

- Establish an individual personal support plan
- Make sure the pupil is not a victim of bullying or other similar treatment
- Use reward system for appropriate behaviour changes
- Assessment by educational psychology service
- Consultation with support services
- Access to counselling
- Close supervision
- A letter home to parents/carers
- Parents/carers are asked to attend the school
- Involvement of the police –for serious offenses or where there is a lack of co-operation from the pupil or parents/carers
- Internal sanctions
- Fixed term or permanent exclusion – where it is demonstrated that there is a significant risk to the safety or welfare of staff or pupils.

Records

Records will be kept securely by a senior leader with responsibility for child protection (Assistant Headteacher) and will only be shared with key people.

Confidentiality and disclosure:

Pupils wishing to disclose drug use by themselves or their peers to school staff are informed that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and that the issue may need to be taken further for the pupil's safety. Any information will be recorded and treated sensitively in line with the school's confidentiality policy.

Public disclosure:

The main purpose of drug education is to develop pupils' knowledge, skills, attitudes and values and not to find out about their personal drug use. This point is addressed within the first lesson on any drug education programme so that neither staff nor pupils will discuss any personal drug use. Public disclosure from staff and pupils should be discouraged at all times. However staff should make it clear to pupils that they can talk to them privately on matters that are concerning them (see confidentiality above).

Collecting evidence

- The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and/or committing an offense of possession.
- The substance should either be handed to the police who will be able to identify if it is an illegal drug or it should be disposed of in the presence of the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher, but it cannot be claimed in retrospect. School staff should not attempt to analyse or test an unidentified substance.
- It is open to a member of staff to search a student's bag when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items. This should be done in the presence of a witness and the pupil.

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- The member of staff must be careful to ensure that there is no opportunity for allegations of assault or improper conduct to arise, and therefore a witness should be in attendance at any interview or search of belongings.
- If a student refuses, the student should be detained under supervision until the police are called in to deal with the situation.
- Intimate physical searches should never be made by a member of staff.