



THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL

**ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE
EDUCATION POLICY**

Signed by Headmaster:

Signed by Chair of Governors:

THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL POLICY FOR ALCOHOL, DRUGS and SUBSTANCES EDUCATION

(Throughout this policy the word drugs refers to alcohol, drugs and substances.)

The Nelson Thomlinson School's drug education policy was formulated following extensive work by teachers and governors which involved a review of the current curriculum content and a discussion of the existing philosophy.

A copy of this policy and guidance is provided for each member of staff and governing body. Reference copies are available from the Head for parents/carers and all other persons who come into contact with the pupils.

This policy will be reviewed annually; this will include evaluation of teaching and learning activities, resources, staff training requirements and the use of visitors.

Definition – What is a drug?

A drug is a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works. This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines (over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquillisers and pain killers), tobacco, e-liquids or vaping liquids, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.

Drugs can be classed as follows:

Class A: illegal to have, sell or give away e.g. cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD and magic mushrooms etc.

Class B: only legally available on prescription e.g. amphetamines, barbiturates and cannabis

Class C: it is not illegal to possess them without a prescription, but it is illegal to supply them or sell them to others e.g. anabolic steroids and tranquillisers.

Others: cigarettes, alcohol and solvents, e-liquids and vapid liquids – substances which the law controls and have prescriptions attached to their use.

The Purpose of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for effective drug education and for dealing with drug related incidents within the school environment. The drug education programme reflects the aims and values of our school and its governing body.

Rationale

Current national and local research indicates that both legal and illegal drug use is rising amongst young people and as part of the school's care and welfare of the pupils we believe we have a duty to inform and educate them about drug use. We share the responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make

healthy, informed choices. It is our belief that it is possible to make a difference to pupil behaviour and we recognise the importance of the following principles that underpin this programme.

- a) Drugs education takes place in the context of relationships and the prevailing climate in the school.
- b) Pupils require certain things of teacher/adults – these include information and guidance/advice.
- c) Growing up is a complex and confusing process. Issues like identity and values, personality and characteristics don't emerge automatically. What young people become is determined not only by their own personality traits but also by the norms of acceptable behaviour in the context in which they find themselves, and the pressure exerted by this peer group.
- d) External pressures are significant – work, parents, social factors, boyfriends/girlfriends, peers, alcohol, smoking, drugs etc.
- e) Drugs education is much more than the provision of information – it's about attitudes, skills, self-awareness and values.
- f) There is a need in Drugs education to provide a climate which is different to normal lessons. The atmosphere must be conducive to discussion and risk free. The aim is to allow pupils to arrive at an informed and responsive view about drugs that will reflect their own private good sense rather than perceived attitudes about "how teenagers behave".
- g) Pupils expect adults to offer their own views. There is no reason why this should not be the case in drugs education. Indeed, not to do so in such an important area is not only dishonest but will be seen to be so. Pupils require a model to gauge their own values against.

To Whom Does the Policy Apply

This policy applies to school pupils, all staff, parents/carers and other visitors.

Where Does the Policy Apply

The school will always respond with the utmost seriousness to any drug-related incident. Organisers of any after-school events, whether school-based or not, should be made aware of the policy and their responsibility to implement it.

Roles and Responsibilities

Head

The Head takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy.

Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors play a role in the implementation of the school's policy for drug education and prevention. They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of the policy.

All Staff

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them. This includes lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaning staff. Staff will be given guidance about incidents involving drugs and appropriate staff will be given relevant training.

Site Managers

The site team regularly check the school premises – any drugs or drug paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the Headmaster and dealt with in accordance to this policy.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to support the school's drug education and have access to this policy. They are responsible for ensuring that the guidelines relating to medicines in school are followed.

Drugs Education Programme

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE and through the statutory science curriculum. The programme reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. The programme is responsive to the needs of pupils, relevant to their age, experience and maturity. It will focus on the development of self-esteem and decision-making skills and involve a wide range of strategies.

Aim/Objectives

The school will present the facts and promote discussion on drug-related matters in such a way that we:

- Enable young people to make informed choices, by increasing knowledge, exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- Provide accurate information about substance.
- Increase understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse.
- Increase understanding of related health and social issues; e.g. Illnesses induced by smoking/drinking, HIV, effects of substance-misuse on wider family, crime.
- Increase understanding to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- Enable school staff and young people to identify sources of appropriate support.

Methodology

Year 10 PSHE

1. Personal Wellbeing – Understanding yourself and handling relationships
 - Developing your identity and image
 - Managing your emotions and moods
 - Changing Relationships

2. Social Education – Responsibilities and Values
 - Britain as a diverse society
 - Human Rights
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - Challenging Offensive Behaviour (racism and sexism)

3. Keeping Healthy
 - Safer sex and contraception
 - STIs, HIV and AIDS
 - Drinking and Smoking
 - Heartstart and First Aid

Year 11 PSHE

1. Economic and Financial Capability
 - Managing your money
 - The UK Economy

2. Personal Wellbeing – Understanding yourself and handling relationships
 - Developing your own values

3. Social Education – Responsibilities and Values
 - Human rights
 - Media matters
 - Challenging offensive behaviour (homophobia)

4. Keeping healthy
 - Managing stress and dealing with depression
 - Drugs and drug taking

Assemblies

- Year 7 - Police Drugs Dog
- Rising Sun Trust in KS4 Assemblies.

Staff Support

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should have a general drugs awareness and an understanding of the policy, including management of drug incidents.

Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Drugs education programme will be assessed as part of the PHSE provision. The provision will be reviewed regularly by designated staff:

Assistant Head
PSHE Co-ordinator
Citizenship Co-ordinator

Guidance for dealing with drug related incidents in school

The school's designated teacher with responsibility for dealing with drug-related incidents, co-ordinating the school's response and liaising with other agencies is Deputy Head: Mrs M Banks.

In the event of a member of staff receiving information about a drug-related incident it is important that they understand that they must never offer confidentiality regarding drug misuse. They are not protected in law and they must convey the information as soon as possible to a member of the school's Senior Management Team.

If a suspicious substance is found on the premises or in the possession of a pupil do not leave the substance there whilst you enlist the support of a colleague or witness. Remove the substance and record the time, place and circumstances where the substance came into your possession, then take it to a member of the school's Senior Management team.

In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with substances use. Pupils should not be allowed to handle such items. They should, once again be retained and taken to the Head of Pastoral/Deputy Head.

The school will always respond with the utmost seriousness to any drug-related incident. In the case of illegal drugs, this response, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, will involve not only the parents/guardians of the pupil concerned but also the police. When responding to drug-related incidents the school will consider the needs of the individuals involved and the needs of their peers in the wider school community. After consultation with the pupils, the school follows a principle of "two strikes and you are out" for the use of illegal substances, giving pupils the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals. In all cases the pupils and their family will be offered help from the school, from partnership agencies via the LEA DASH referral system. However, supplying an illegal drug is such a serious breach of the school rules that the Head will permanently exclude the pupil, even if it is a one-off or first-time offence.

Confidentiality

Pupils disclosing information about their own or other's drug use should be reminded that a teacher cannot offer absolute confidentiality.

Dealing with the Media

As the issue of drug use is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the media, the school may take appropriate advice from the LA media team and legal department to ensure any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young person, their families and the school.