

All Children's Integrated Primary School



Drugs Education Policy

Drugs Education Policy

including solvents, pain relief, cigarettes and alcohol.

Designated Drug Education Teacher:

Mr J. Beattie

Deputy Drug Education Teachers:

Mr M. Houlahan

Mrs S. Curran

The Law in Northern Ireland

All staff should be aware of their responsibilities under the law. It is important to note that the law in Northern Ireland differs in certain ways from elsewhere in the U.K. The relevant pieces of legislation are the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 as outlined below.

1. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- i. to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act;
- ii. to be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he took all such steps as were reasonably open to him to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it;
- iii. for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering of any controlled drug.

The offences listed are arrestable offences.

Section 8

A person commits an offence if, being the occupier or concerned in the management of any premises, he knowingly permits or suffers any of the following activities to take place on those premises, that is to say:

- (a) producing or attempting to produce a controlled drug
- (b) supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another or offering to supply a controlled drug to another.
- (c) Preparing opium for smoking
- (d) Smoking cannabis resin or prepared opium

2. Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967

Section 5

Failing to give information. Where a person has committed an arrestable offence, it shall be the duty of every other person who knows or believes:

- i. that the offences or some other arrestable offence has been committed; and
- ii. that he has information which is likely to secure, or to be of material assistance in securing, the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of any person for that offence;

To give that information, within a reasonable time, to a constable and is, without reasonable excuse, he fails to do so then that person is committing an offence.

This places an onus on individuals to inform a constable.

The Law permits a member of staff to make temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the offence of possession. The staff member should take the suspected drug and any associated equipment as soon as possible to the designated teacher/principal/leader in charge or line manager. He/she should arrange for its safe storage until it can be handed over to the local police to identify whether or not is a controlled drug.

Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance.

Handling Incidents

Procedures for handling drug related incidents should be in written form and be part of the school or youth centre's policy. It is imperative that all staff are aware of the procedures and that regular updating and briefing from part of the management structure.

Schools should adopt the procedure outlined in the document "Guidelines on Handling Suspected Incidents of Drugs Misuse on School Premises" published by the Department of Education in 1996 and Youth Units should use the procedures outlined in "Management of Drug Related Incidents within the Youth Service" published by the Department of Education in 1998.

Other Board staff who become aware of a drug related incident should immediately consult their line manager and the Board's Designated Officer for Drug Education (Mr Eamon Bogues).

It is important that staff remember the constraints of the law in Northern Ireland and act quickly to ensure incidents are handled correctly.

All action must be recorded on the attached form a copy of which should be retained at the point of origin and copy forwarded to the Boards Designated Officer for Drug Education.

Confidentiality

The spirit of confidentiality is of primary importance to those who work professionally with young people in a trusting and secure environment. However, the legal requirements of drug legislation will mean that in certain circumstances it will be necessary to inform young people that there will be a change in the convention of confidentiality. The Children (Northern Ireland) Order (1995) makes it clear that the welfare of the young person is paramount and therefore confidentiality may not always be possible on a one-to-one basis. A statement on confidentiality must be included in any school or youth centre's policy statement.

The school will consult the S.E.E.L.B Drug Education Unit if they need clarification or advice on issues.

SEELB
Grahamsbridge Road
Dundonald
Belfast
BT16 2HS

Tel: 028 9056 6200

HANDLING INCIDENTS - ACTION CHART

Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse where the designated teacher for drugs is not the Principal.

Teacher's Action

Teacher assesses situation and decides action, if urgent.



Send for additional staff Support immediately.



Make situation safe for all pupils.



Secure first aid and call ambulance if necessary.



If a substance is found it should be retained and given to Principal/ Designated Teacher until Police can be informed.



Inform designated teacher for Drugs and Principal.



Later:
Write a report of the incident.

If problem not urgent, discuss with designated teacher for drugs after the incident.

Principal's Action

Principal decides action and informs:

1. Police
2. Parents
3. Board of Governors
4. Specialist drugs support agency as appropriate.

1. Invokes disciplinary procedures (if appropriate)
2. Pupil's needs assessed and appropriate support given.

Review procedure and alter, if necessary.

