

Drug Education Policy

New End Primary School

Date Completed: Summer term 2017

Review Date: Summer term 2019

The Need For A Policy

New End School believes that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and that experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people's lives, occasionally even of children of Primary school age. It is our responsibility to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug prevention and help those who misuse drugs. It is the aim of this policy to give a clear view on the use of drugs in school and the importance of drug education. The policy emphasizes the school's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and a clear view on the handling of drug use in school. In developing this policy we have considered the legal responsibility, the needs of pupils, teachers, governors, parents and the local community.

A Definition Of Drugs

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned both with substances taken for medical and those taken for non-medical purposes. In this document drugs for medical purposes will be called 'medicines' while those for non-medical purposes will be called 'drugs'.

Medicines will have been obtained legitimately, normally by adults for their children, over the counter or by prescription (e.g. antibiotics, pain killers).

Drugs are either legal or illegal or legally obtained substances sold for legitimate purposes:

Legal drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents) may be obtained over the counter by adults, but not by children of primary school age.

Illegal drugs are those such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS-formerly known as 'legal highs'), GHB, anabolic steroids and khat

Some substances (e.g. solvents, lighter fuel) that can be obtained over the counter for legitimate purposes may be misused as drugs.

Drug Education And Drug Prevention

New End provides a comprehensive and planned drug education curriculum for all children, as part of health education, and aims to give all children knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs. We believe these are very important attributes for New End children to take with them to secondary school. The main resources for teaching about drugs at KS1 and KS2 are the QCA scheme of work, Camden's year-group specific scheme of work (including suggested lesson plans for teaching about drugs) and Drugwise (a series of lesson plans and resources developed by Islington LEA). QCA scheme consists of Unit A (Keeping ourselves and others safe), which is for KS1, and units B (Risk taking and resisting unhelpful pressure) and C (Building knowledge and understanding about drugs and alcohol – practising skills to deal with situations), which are both for KS2. In order to ensure the planned teaching of drug education throughout the school, New End uses Camden's PSHE and citizenship scheme of work, which includes a planned teaching programme for drugs education. New End acknowledges that a positive school ethos helps children to feel valued and part of the school community and, in so doing, helps to foster positive self images which may help children cope better in situations involving drug use.

Statement On The Use Of Drugs In School

New End believes that the possession and use of drugs, and any other substances that can be misused as drugs, is inappropriate, whether obtained legally or illegally.

No drugs as defined above are permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises at any time. These rules apply to school staff and other adults working in and for the school, apart from the use of alcohol at official social events. There is a 'no smoking' policy in force throughout the building and playgrounds at New End School.

Any breaking of these rules will result in sanctions and may result in permanent exclusion of pupils. Adults will be referred to the school's disciplinary procedure.

Confidentiality

Children at New End need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without the fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. Children will always be given this information if at all possible. Information about a child in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The headteacher will be informed and help sought if appropriate and in discussion with the child involved. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people, including the headteacher. For further details, see the school's Confidentiality policy.

Parental Involvement

Parents will be informed of the drug education curriculum and have the opportunity to raise concerns. Parents will have access to a copy of this policy through its availability at the school office. Parents will be provided with a copy of the policy on request. Parents will be contacted if their child is caught breaking the rules on drugs. Opportunities will be made available for parents to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health-related issues. We have involved parents in the development of this policy.

Police Involvement

In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. However, the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which controls heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA (ecstasy), amphetamines and cannabis and other drugs as well. The school is also aware of any amendments on reclassification of drugs covered by this and any more recent Acts (e.g. cannabis). This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply these drugs and it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately. New End School maintains strong links with the local community police through their involvement in the drug education curriculum, which helps children to have a greater understanding of the role of the police and about drugs and the Law. It is the policy of this school to contact the local community police/schools involvement officer where an incident has involved an illegal substance, and to hand the substance to the police.

Responding To Drug-Related Incidents

In all situations involving drugs the following principles apply:

- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response.
- The needs of the child will always come first.
- The Pastoral System will be the first response if at all possible.
- Parents/Carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation.
- Support agencies including the police will be involved if appropriate.
- Support for children will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate.
- Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling response.

Disciplinary Response

Situations which include breaking of the school rules on drugs will result in punishment. The type of punishment will depend on the exact nature and degree of the offence. The school employs a variety of sanctions related to the offence, e.g. fixed exclusions, detentions. Permanent exclusion will be considered and used only in exceptional cases, such as dealing in drugs. In most cases permanent exclusion will be used only as a final resort, after all other approaches have been taken. Parents/carers and children will be informed throughout the investigations.

Counselling response

The child's welfare is paramount and in all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling or support within the school will be actively considered. Local drug agencies will be able to offer some counselling and work with children where appropriate. We believe that those children who are misusing illegal drugs and volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage so that they can be helped.

Reporting Procedure

The reporting procedure ensures that only a limited number of people will be involved in any incident. All incidents are reported to the headteacher. If an exclusion is considered then the procedure for this is put into action by the headteacher, and will involve the governing body. The procedures for exclusions are detailed in the school's Behaviour policy. All incidents are written down and kept in the office as confidential items.

Managing Drug-Related Incidents

Incidents involving drugs may take the form of emergencies, intoxication, discovery/observation, disclosure, suspicion/rumour. This policy considers responses to these situations.

Emergency situations where a person is unconscious, which may be as a result of drug use. Staff with first-aid qualifications should be called and the person not left alone. The person will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called. The parents will be informed and called to the school. An assessment of the incident will be started, including finding out whether a substance has been taken and evidence gathered. A report of the incident will be written down and given to the headteacher. The headteacher will decide whether disciplinary and/or counselling action will be taken.

Intoxication from drug use. The person will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and headteacher will be called. The person will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought if necessary. The parents will be informed and called to the school. A report of the incident will be written down and the headteacher will decide if disciplinary and/or counselling action will be taken.

Discovery/observation when a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy. The person should be approached and the substance confiscated, if possible. The headteacher will be called and the person involved questioned. If the substance is illegal or there is doubt about its identity, drug services or the local community police officer will be contacted. All illegal substances will be handed to the police. Parents will be informed and called to the school. A report of the incident will be written down and the headteacher will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling approach will be taken.

Disclosure when a child discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use. Teachers will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the child's welfare. Children will know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality if further support is to be considered such as referral to a drug service or counselling service. Information about the child will only be given to key people and no one else unless the child gives consent. Total confidentiality is maintained at all times in drug and counselling services.

Suspicion/rumour. Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone. However, if there is suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the child involved.

Administering Medicines

In most cases, parents, not teachers, will administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours, but where this is not possible, parents of children in need of medication must ensure that the school is accurately advised in writing about the medication, its usage and administration. Antibiotics will not be administered in school time. Any child needing six-hourly doses can receive the medication from a parent/carer before 9 a.m. and again at 3.30 p.m. Children requiring more frequent doses should not be in school. New End children may be able to manage their own medication, under supervision, but only with parental agreement, and in these cases the school still should be informed in writing. The decision for staff to administer medicines will be made by the headteacher. There is a locked cabinet and information about the keyholders on each floor of the school. Asthma-reliever inhalers, epipens and piriton, dosages and instructions are kept in these locked cabinets. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to keep the school up to date (in writing) of any changes in medication. It is also the responsibility of parents/carers to routinely replace out-of-date medication, including inhalers, which is kept in school, and to inform the school in writing of such replacement. Teachers of younger children will always take inhalers etc. on any out-of-school trip (including swimming), in the first-aid bag. Older (years 5 and 6) children will be trusted to take their own inhalers, though on request they will be kept by a responsible accompanying adult. Again, such arrangements must be indicated in writing by the parent/carer.

Training And Support For Staff

We will ensure that staff receive training (but within the constraints of the school budget) to help them provide effective drug education and support for their teaching and understanding of the issues. The PSHE subject leader has responsibility for ensuring there is drug education within the PSHE curriculum and receives support from Camden's Health and Wellbeing Team. The school will make every effort to take advantage of the support, advice, information and training provided by Camden.

Monitoring and Evaluating Policy and Practice

The policy will be reviewed regularly by governors and staff to ensure that it reflects practice at New End.