



Claremont Fan Court School

Policy and Procedure: Drug and Substance Education and Misuse

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Claremont Fan Court School, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. This is achieved through having a drug awareness and education programme and dealing effectively with pupils where drug use is alleged to have taken place.

Definition of 'Drugs'

In this context, 'drugs' or 'substance' means without limitation controlled drugs, including for example cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, and LSD, the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs. It also means solvents, aerosols, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, mushrooms and other substances possessed or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse, including new psychoactive substances (NPS, previously known as 'legal highs').

In addition to illegal drugs, it includes legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes; volatile substances; and over-the-counter and prescription medicines, where these are used inappropriately.

This policy and procedure covers the possession, use and supply of such substances and applies at all times, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School.

Education Programme

We have extensive, age-appropriate PSHEE programmes at Claremont Fan Court School that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. As with our related programmes concerning alcohol and tobacco, they concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. However, they also include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying with the criminal law.

Our drug education programme helps pupils to:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about the effects, risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings.
- Develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice.
- Develop skills to manage situations involving drugs, including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others.

- Explore their own and other people's attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with their Form Tutor, Head of Year or other pastoral staff. They can also refer themselves to the Care Centre and to the School Counsellor for individual guidance.

Response to Illegal or Unauthorised Drug Use on the Premises or During an Official School Event

No pupil, parent or member of staff at Claremont Fan Court School may bring or use illegal drugs School premises or during approved School activities, e.g. sports fixtures, day and residential trips, DofE expeditions, etc.

All incidents must be reported to a member of the Senior Leadership Team immediately and information shared on a need to know basis.

The Headteacher will always be informed.

Where a pupil discloses to a member of staff that they are taking illegal or unauthorised drugs, or that they have brought such drugs onto the School premises, the teacher should make clear to the pupil that the information will be shared immediately with the Headteacher.

The following are the guidelines which inform the School's procedure if there is reason to believe that a pupil is involved in the abuse of controlled drugs or the abuse of substances:

1) Evidence of Misuse

Any pupil who, while at School or in the vicinity of the School, or in the care of the School, is found to use, possess, supply or deal in drugs or substances, or demonstrates an obvious intention to do any of these things, must expect to be expelled from School (excluded permanently), regardless of whether or not the pupil is about to take public examinations.

If a pupil is in the company of another pupil or pupils who are caught using an illegal drug (or any substance that contravenes this Policy) the School reserves the right to deal with the matter as a breach of School discipline.

Where a pupil's use of a drug, or any substance that contravenes this Policy, outside of term time and/or not on the School site affects his or her performance or behaviour at School and/or brings the School's reputation into disrepute, he or she may expect to be expelled (permanently excluded) from the School.

2) Searches for drugs/substances

When undertaking searches, the School will follow the advice from the Department for Education contained within their publication 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation' or successor publications.

School staff can search pupils for drugs or substances with their consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving his / her consent. The search will normally be carried out by

appropriate staff with another member of staff present, but there may be reasons where, for the best interest of the whole School community, this may not be possible.

If a pupil refuses to give their consent to a search, he / she will be asked to say why he / she has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from his or her response and general demeanour and the police may be informed.

In relation to a controlled drug, the Headteacher, and staff authorised by the Headteacher, may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions, without their consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has a prohibited item in their possession.

If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset. If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the School to investigate.

3) Suspicion of Misuse

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil is misusing drugs in (or out of) School, whether in term or holiday time, he/she must report the situation through the pupil's Head of Year or directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will decide in consultation with Pastoral colleagues and/or the Headteacher if further investigation is warranted.

The School reserves the right to ask pupils to undergo a drugs test where there is reasonable suspicion of drug abuse. For example:

- i) Behaviour changes;
- ii) Suspected involvement in a drug related incident;
- iii) Physical signs;
- iv) Implication by word of mouth;
- v) Academic performance is significantly below expectation.

Testing procedures will be in accordance with standard good practice and will be taken under medical supervision. A member of the School staff will also be present.

The School will consider each incident individually. Any transgression of this policy will normally lead to permanent exclusion. The welfare of the pupil(s) will always be at the centre of any discussion but this will be balanced against the welfare of the School community.

- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigations.
- Support agencies will be involved, if appropriate.
- Appropriate counselling and support will be available to those pupils deemed to be at risk.
- The police will be contacted in any case of the use of illegal substances.

When the Headteacher has evidence to suggest there has been a drug-related incident they will inform the Chair of Governors immediately and an investigation will be initiated.

Staff

Any employee of the School taking or in possession of illegal drugs on school premises or during school hours or selling or buying such drugs or under the influence of illegal drugs during school hours will be dismissed immediately. Inappropriate use of alcohol by an employee on School premises or during School hours will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Parents

If Parents attending School premises appear to be under the influence of drugs (including alcohol), they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection / safeguarding. If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs, the member of staff should report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the senior leadership team who may telephone the police. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's child protection procedures will be followed.

Relevant Policies and Procedures

This document should be viewed in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:

- Whole School Safeguarding Policy/Procedure
- Pupil Discipline Code (contained in the annual Parent Information Booklet)
- Code of Conduct for Staff
- Whole School PSHEE Policy/Procedure

Statutory Framework

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following guidance:

- DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools (DfE/ACPO, September 2012)
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation at School (DfE February 2014, updated September 2016)