



THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

The school (along with the wider community) is committed to the health and safety of all its members (both pupils and staff) and will take action to safeguard their well being.

The Petersfield School defines 'Drugs' as any substance (legal or illegal) which may affect the way the mind or body works.

- The Petersfield School does not condone the use or supply of any illegal substance nor the use of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (solvents) or the inappropriate use of prescribed or over the counter medicines.
- The school believes that the possession and use of illegal drugs or the inappropriate use or supply of legal drugs in school or during the day is inappropriate.
- All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on the school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school unless consent has been given by the Headteacher.
- Pupils in need of support will be encouraged to seek help through the pastoral system. Health Education is a vital part of the education of every pupil
- The school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people of the consequences of substance use and misuse
- We believe that the effective education of our pupils is a responsibility shared between, parents, governors, teachers, associate staff and outside agencies

Aims/Objectives:

- To give pupils the courage and confidence to say 'No' to substance misuse
- To give pupils the information and skills they need to make choices and form positive relationships with others
- To help raise the self-esteem of pupils
- To encourage pupils to take responsibility for adopting a healthy lifestyle and their actions towards others
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. Sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face

- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- To have a consistent whole school approach
- To create a safe school environment

SUBSTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHVE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. This is co-ordinated and delivered through:

The PSHVE Programme
 Tutorial Programme
 Assemblies
 Cross Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities
 National Curriculum
 Outside Agencies

The Curriculum includes:

- The development of health – related skills, for example, informed decision making and resisting peer pressure
- The exploration of attitudes
- Acquiring accurate information (the co-ordinator will monitor review the programme annually)

Drug Education will:

- a) enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes
- b) promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- c) provide accurate information about substances
- d) increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- e) encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- f) widen understanding about health and social issues

LIAISON WITH THE POLICE

The Petersfield School will not allow the use, supply or production of any illegal substance on its premises. In any such case the police will be informed through the recognised and accepted procedure. In an extreme emergency, any member of staff may contact the police directly.

Where any suspected illegal substance is confiscated, the member of staff must follow the procedure outlined in the Substance Related Incident Document.

Local police contacts are aware of this policy and will assist as and when required.

LIAISON WITH CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS

The Petersfield School will work closely with all its consortium of 'feeder' schools to ensure that there is continuity in substance education. Matters relating to substance use and misuse will be considered at liaison meetings, including head teacher meetings and curriculum liaison groups.

LIAISON WITH OTHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Matters relating to substance misuse will be considered at relevant meetings with other secondary schools and colleges. From time to time joint action will be taken.

PARENTS

Parents will be kept informed of substance related issues (for example with opportunities to view teaching materials; access to the policy and the opportunity to take part in a Substance Awareness Evening).

THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governors' School Committee will be involved in the monitoring and review of the Drug Education Policy. They will be informed of substance related incidents by the Senior Leadership Group when they consider it appropriate and in line with the written guidelines on Dealing with Substance Related Incidents.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

All staff will be made aware of this policy, including the managing of drug related incidents. INSET (which meets staff needs) will be arranged when appropriate. Literature will be available to assist staff.

THE ROLE OF OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The Petersfield School actively co-operates with outside agencies to deliver drug education, staff INSET and to deal with substance related incidents where appropriate.

STATUTORY DUTY OF THE SCHOOL

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of a substance co-ordinator, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

IMPLEMENTATION

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the head teacher. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but informing the appointed substance co-ordinator is appropriate action. The co-ordinator should inform the head teacher, who will inform the parents.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the

production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Affairs department.

The governing body will be involved in drug education and drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any actions it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the County Council Policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LEA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

Sponsored by	<u>MR; School comm</u>	Created	<u>Sept 2004</u>
To be revised	<u>Every 2 years</u>	Approved	<u>Sch comm 23/9/04; 9/11/06</u>