

Drumahoe Primary School



DrugsPolicy



Designated Teacher for Drugs

Laura Hegarty

September 2013

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Rationale

For the purpose of this document the term 'drugs' includes tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs. Drumahoe primary school does not condone the misuse of drugs but recognises that there has been a considerable increase in the abuse of drugs in recent years in Northern Ireland. Drug misuse appears to be affecting an ever-younger population and the so-called "recreational" use of drugs can lead to a dangerous acceptance of illegal and harmful drug misuse as part of everyday life.

We believe that this school has a vital preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include a drugs education programme in our curriculum.

This school sees its role as that of a caring community committed to the physical, mental, social, emotional, moral and spiritual health, safety and well being of our pupils and staff.

We want our pupils to make informed and responsible decisions about drugs by increasing their knowledge and by developing in them appropriate values, attitudes and skills. However, we recognise that drug misuse is a whole-community issue and that schools alone cannot solve the drugs problem; the school is only one of a number of groups and agencies which must play a part in the education of young people and we make use of their expertise where possible in the delivery of the programme.

Copies of the guidance on which this policy is based (Drugs: Guidance for schools in Northern Ireland) are available from the Department of Education website www.deni.gov.uk (Circular 2004/09).

Definitions

For the purpose of this document and in line with the guidance issued to all schools by the Department of Education (2004/09) **drugs will include any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way the body works or the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.**

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco;
- "over-the-counter" medicines, such as paracetamol;
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, tranquillisers, inhalers and Ritalin;
- volatile substances, such as correcting fluids/thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols, glues and petrol;
- controlled drugs, such as cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms (processed), heroin and cocaine; and
- other substances such as amyl/butyl nitrite ('poppers') and unprocessed magic mushrooms.

Ethos

In Drumahoe Primary school we believe in developing the potential of everyone to the full within a caring and stimulating environment.

Aims and Objectives

- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
- To provide all staff (teaching and non-teaching) with adequate training and support to enable them to deal effectively and confidently with incidents of suspected drug misuse, and to ensure that the agreed procedures are consistently and sensitively applied in all situations.
- To empower teaching staff through appropriate training and support to develop and deliver an effective drug education programme.
- To provide a drug education programme which
 - develops pupils' self esteem and promotes positive attitudes in their relationships with others;
 - gives pupils' opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about the use/misuse of drugs including tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances, within the context of a healthy lifestyle; and
 - helps pupils' develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative pressures and influences.
- To provide appropriate support and assistance for those pupils affected by drug-related issues.
- To inform parents of the content of this policy and the procedures to be implemented in the management of incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- To establish an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of all drugs.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

- Be aware of and adhere to school rules in relation to drug use/misuse, including tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs.

Parents/Guardians

- Support the school in the development and implementation of this policy, including the school's procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse and the drug education programme.
- Support your son/daughter if they have become involved with drugs.

All Staff (Teaching and Non-Teaching)

- Be alert to the possibility of drug use/misuse.
- Be familiar with the school's procedures in the handling of suspected drug-related incidents.
- It is not the responsibility of the individual staff member to investigate the circumstances surrounding an incident, however he/she should deal with any emergency procedures if necessary.
- Any information, substance or paraphernalia received should be forwarded to the designated teacher for drugs who may have to take immediate action.

Teachers delivering the Drug Education programme

In addition to the above:

- Deliver the school's drug education programme.
- Try to create an atmosphere in the classroom in which pupils can freely contribute to discussion, safe in the knowledge that the comments, ideas and feelings of the group are valued.
- Support pupils in their class if necessary.
- Liaise with the designated teacher for drugs regarding any aspect of the programme/policy, as necessary.

The Designated Teacher for Drugs (Laura Hegarty)

- Ensure that all staff and parents are aware of and have access to a copy of the policy.
- Have oversight and co-ordination of the planning of curricular provision in compliance with the statutory requirements including periodic update and review of the policy.
- Liaise with other staff responsible for pastoral care in co-ordinating the delivery of the drug education programme.
- Be responsible for co-ordinating the school's procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse (**see also Appendices 1 - 4**).
- Co-ordinate training and induction of all staff in the procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- Determine the circumstances surrounding any suspected drug-related incident.

- Complete a suspected incident report forms (**see Appendices 2 - 4**) and forward to the Principal/W.E.L.B..
- Ensure the engagement and active participation of parents in all aspects of drug education.
- Act as the point of contact for outside agencies working with the school.

The Principal

- Ensure that members of the Board of Governors have been consulted on and ratified the policy.

In the case of incidents of suspected drug misuse:

- Ensure the welfare and well being of the pupil(s) involved in the incident and the rest of the school community.
- Ensure that the following people are informed (where relevant):
 - * Parents/guardians
 - * PSNI - Community and Schools Involvement Officer (**CSIO**)
 - * Board of Governors (**see Appendices 2 & 3**)
 - * Designated Officer in WELB/CCMS (**see Appendix 4**)
 - * Members of staff
 - * Other pupils and parents informed within the confines of confidentiality
- Agree, in consultation with the Board of Governors, appropriate pastoral and disciplinary responses in relation to the incident, including counselling services/support.
- Retain written records of the incident and ensure a copy of the report is submitted to Board of Governors and WELB/CCMS as appropriate.
- Review procedures and amend as appropriate.

The Board of Governors

- Examine and approve the completed policy and education programme, prior to their implementation in the school.
- Ensure the policy is published in the school prospectus and that it is reviewed at regular intervals.
- Be fully aware of and adequately trained to deal with suspected incidents of drug misuse, including tobacco and alcohol, and their appropriate disciplinary response.
- Agree in consultation with the principal appropriate pastoral and disciplinary responses in relation to suspected drug related incidents.
- Designate a Governor to work with the Principal and designated teacher for drugs in relation to drug-related incidents.

The Caretaker

- Be vigilant around and conduct regular checks of the school grounds for drug-related paraphernalia, and inform the designated teacher for drugs as appropriate.
- Ensure the safe storage, handling and disposal of potentially harmful substances such as solvents and cleaning fluids.

Training and Information

All staff (Teaching and Non-Teaching) and Governors will be provided with training to support the full implementation of this policy including the delivery of the drug education programme. Information awareness sessions/drug awareness evening will be offered to parents/guardians.

The Drug Education Programme

The drug education programme in this school is just one part of the whole school response to drug use/misuse. The programme provides opportunities for pupils to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding in relation to drug use/misuse;
- identify values and attitudes in relation to drug use/misuse;
- develop skills to enable them to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others; and
- make informed and responsible choices within the context of a healthy lifestyle.

Procedures for dealing with suspected drug related incidents

Fundamental to dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse is the principle of *'in loco parentis'*, and the school will always take the steps that would reasonably be expected of any parent to safeguard the well being and safety of all the pupils in their charge.

- Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, solvents or any illegal drugs at any time. Any found will be confiscated and only returned to parents. Parents will be informed as a matter of course.
- If any member of staff, teaching or non-teaching is aware of a pupil involved in the misuse of drugs the information will immediately be passed on to the designated teacher (Laura Hegarty) and the principal (**see Appendices 1 & 2**). They will assess the situation and inform parents and police if necessary.
- If any pupil is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated and held in the school safe until parents have been informed. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug it will be passed on to the police and a careful record kept. The Principal will be informed and will take the lead in deciding how to respond further. Each situation will be judged individually. Parents will normally be informed and other outside professionals such as W.E.L.B, P.S.N.I and GP will be consulted as appropriate. A careful investigation will be undertaken by the designated teacher for drugs (Laura Hegarty) to try to determine the source of any drug and the involvement of any other pupils. Careful records will be kept.
- If any pupil is thought to be under the influence of a drug, medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required by the teacher(s)

trained in first aid (Julie Bryson/Elaine Semple). In addition routine enquiries to try to find out what drug is involved, its source and whether any other pupils are involved will be undertaken. The priority will be pupil's safety.

- If a pupil is thought to be in possession of a harmful substance they will be invited to hand it over directly to the designated teacher for drugs (Laura Hegarty) or the Principal. If the pupil is un-cooperative they will be asked to remain in the school office until a parent or carer arrives. In the event that the parent or carer is unavailable the school will have to contact the police who have the authority to search the pupil. **In no circumstances will a member of staff search the person or belongings of a pupil.** All incidents will be handled with the highest level of confidentiality by all concerned, however staff cannot promise children "they will not tell" as information may need to be shared with others to resolve an incident. Rumours or suspicions will be fully and promptly investigated by the designated teacher (Laura Hegarty)
- The range of sanctions used for rule breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions and will depend on the nature and gravity of the offence. Exclusion will only be considered in serious circumstances.
- A range of support services are available to children and families which include:

N.S.P.C.C *Bronagh Muldoon (WELB Area) Tel 028 8224 8929*

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland 028 9031 1611

Children's Safety Education Foundation 0161 477 5122

The school will at all times give careful consideration as to how any information relating to an incident of suspected/confirmed drug use/misuse is communicated to staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

The parents/guardians of the pupil(s) directly involved in an incident of suspected drug use/misuse will be informed of the incident recognising that the future of a child or adult can be adversely affected. Confidentiality is of paramount importance in drug related incidents and subsequent outcomes.

Dealing with the Media

If the school receives an enquiry from the media the caller will only be referred to the Principal or, in the absence of the Principal, a designated nominee.(Laura Hegarty)

When responding to the media the privacy of the pupil(s), his/her family and/or any staff members will be respected at all times.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school will ensure that procedures are put in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of all aspects of this policy. Information will be regularly collected from pupils and staff as part of the monitoring process, and this will then be evaluated against the aims and objectives of the policy at appropriate intervals.

This policy will be reviewed every two years and following a drugs related incident. The review will take account of, and reflect recent changes in the circumstances and trends in drug use. Staff, governors and parents will be asked to comment and provide feedback on the policy and any comments forwarded will be considered when reviewing the policy.

Communication and Dissemination of Policy

This policy will be issued to all staff, governors and parents and a summary of its contents will be included in the school prospectus.

The policy is also available on request to any other person from the wider community who expresses an interest.

CHECKLIST FOR HANDLING SUSPECTED DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS

This is a guide on the key procedures to undertake when a drug-related incident occurs in schools.

1. Ensure the safety of the individual pupil involved, of other pupils, yourself and other staff. On finding a situation with a suspected substance: -

- Get help immediately from another adult.
- Assess situation, to see if this is a life-threatening situation or not.

If an emergency: -

- If necessary contact an ambulance.
- Put person under the influence of the drugs in the recovery position.
- Ensure airways are cleared.
- Remove any other bystanders from the immediate vicinity.

Then in all cases: -

- Carefully gather up any drugs / paraphernalia / evidence lying around and keep safely.
- Ascertain which substances / drugs have been taken and how much.
- Secure all drugs and paraphernalia and give to the Principal / designated teacher for drugs immediately, and lock them away.
- Contact the parents/guardians as soon as possible.

2. Ensure all incidents are properly investigated and recorded: -

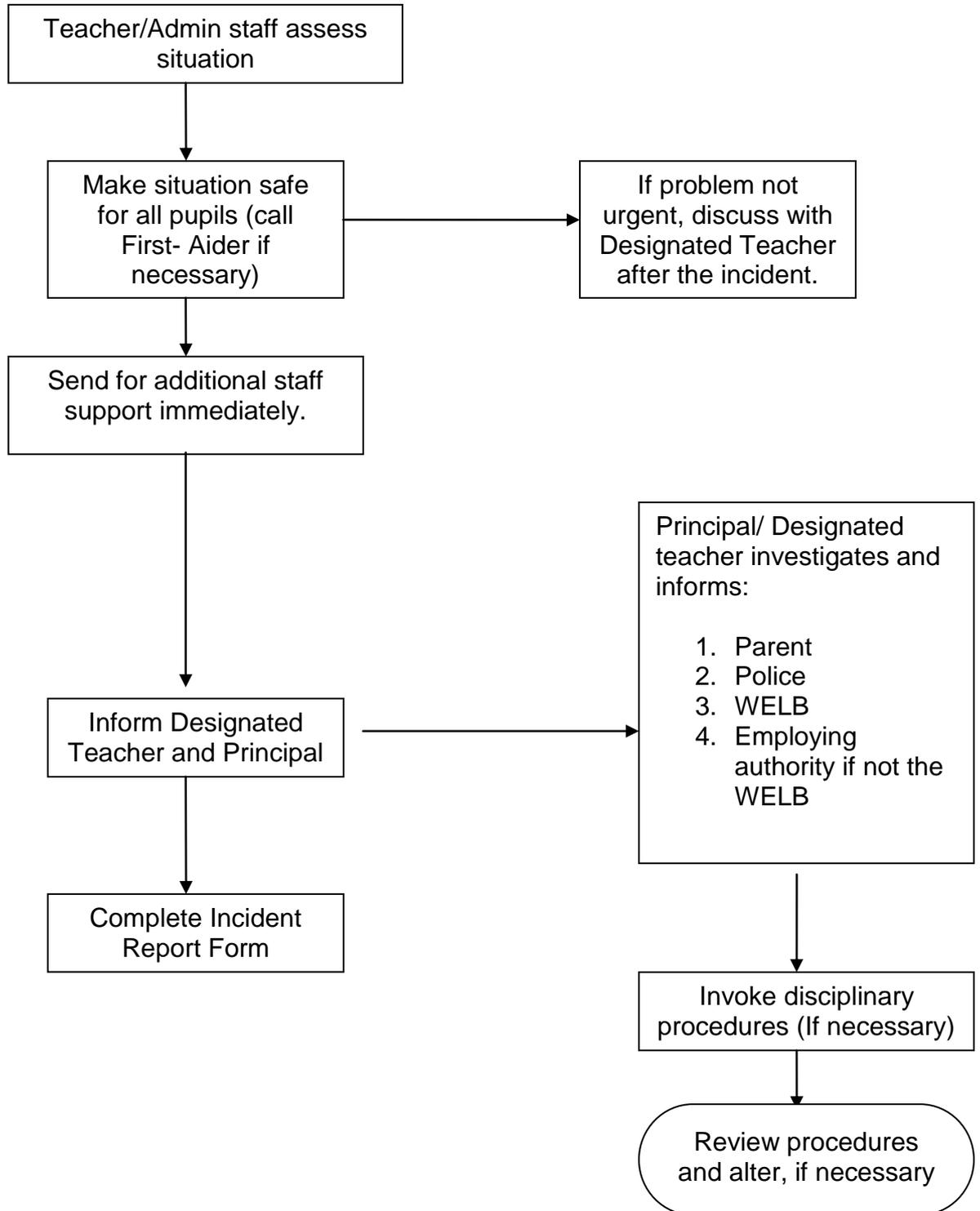
- Never accuse pupils of drug dealing/possession; these are alleged illicit substances until substantiated by the PSNI.
- Conduct search procedures according to school policy. (**Never search personal belongings without permission.** It is okay to search school property such as lockers, cupboards or desks).
- Ensure all drugs are safely and securely stored or destroyed, making sure that this is witnessed by another adult and recorded.
- Gather details and data from all the eyewitnesses at the scene.
- All statements and phone calls should be recorded, signed and dated.
- Record all information on official incident form and sign and date, or ensure accurate details are given to whoever is writing the form and co-sign.
- Ensure an incident form is filled in and forwarded to the WELB/CCMS, as appropriate.
- Ensure that you follow all the procedures in your School's Drugs Policy.

3. Ensure appropriate individuals and agencies are informed and contacted as needed: -

- Principal and designated teacher for drugs
- Parents / guardians
- PSNI (CSIO)
- WELB/CCMS as appropriate
- Chairperson initially and subsequently the Board of Governors
- The Education Welfare Officer
- No media statements, only the Principal should do this
- Other pupils, parents and staff are only told on a need-to-know basis

A pastoral / disciplinary response needs to be made by the school, balancing the need for compassion and the pupil's welfare with the need to send a clear message about illegal actions and behaviour and the impact on the school community.

Misuse of Substance Flowchart



Drugs and Substance Misuse Incident

Report Form

(Form to be completed by Teacher involved in Incident)

Nature of Incident:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Venue: _____

Pupil(s) involved:

Teacher Response:

Substance given to Principal/Designated Teacher: Yes

NO

Report to Designated Teacher: Yes NO

Report to Principal: Yes NO

Signed: _____ Date: _____

School Record and Checklist

(To be completed and held as record by Principal / Designated Teacher)

Date:

Nature of Incident:

Substance in secure storage: _____ (please tick)

Staff involved:

Report from staff attached: _____ (please tick)

Name of Pupil(s) involved:

Year:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Informed (Circle as appropriate):

➤ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) :

➤ Local CSIO :

➤ Board of Governors :

➤ WELB :

➤ Employing Authority if not WELB :

➤ Other relevant bodies :

Action plan for pupil support in place:

Signed:

Principal/Designated Teacher

PRO-FORMA TO INFORM W.E.L.B.

Name of School: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Date: _____

Principal: _____

Contact Teacher: _____

Details of Incident:

Substance (if identified): _____

I have completed the checklist outlined in Appendix 3:

Signed: _____

Date: _____