

Drugs Policy

Black Firs School

The School

Black Firs School serves the West Heath area of Congleton, to the southwest of the town. There are 9 children who speak English as a second language and there are less than 3% of children in receipt of free school meals. There are 19 children on the Special Needs register.

Moral and Values Framework

The School ethos is based on care and respect for everyone. The School has a Mission Statement and Aims. Our 'Visions, Values and Pedagogy' policy outlines the philosophy of the School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Discipline policy, which includes our Code of Conduct, Home-School Agreement, Equal Opportunities policy and Child Protection.

Policy Formulation

Pat McGill, Adviser, advises this policy for Health and Drug Education. Staff and Governors formulate it.

Statement of Policy on Substance Use/Misuse

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the School, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.
- The school acknowledges the need to be aware and sensitive to the fact that some children may be living with drug-using parents.

In response to shared concerns at the local and national level, the School takes a pro-active stance in educating children on the consequence of drug use and misuse as a vital part of its care for the welfare of its pupils. Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances are rising, it is seen as important to recognise that the larger numbers of young people are choosing *not to* use or misuse substances. We will support their differing needs.

We have a close relationship with our parents in sharing the responsibility of educating our children. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

We support the following **educational aims**:

Ratified by the Governing Body.

Signed Chair of Governors

Date

Review Date

- to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills
- to provide accurate information about substances
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance abuse
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- to provide support and up-to-date information to parents where requested

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum, and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. The head teacher will monitor delivery.

Use of Visitors

There may be occasions when the use of an outside speaker may be deemed appropriate as part of a planned programme of work. Teachers should ensure that children have a key role in the process of inviting and organising the session. The speaker should know what is expected of him and feel comfortable in providing input.

Dealing with Drug Related Incidents in School

There will be some young people of school age who choose to experiment with illegal drugs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist drug use.

Health and Safety of Pupils

The Caretaker and staff will remain vigilant, during the course of their duties, in looking for signs of drug use in the grounds and buildings. Any drug-related medical emergency should initially be dealt with by the trained first-aider. Professional help should be called and the head teacher notified. Unless the School has concerns for the child's safety, the parents should also be notified.

Pastoral Care and Support for Pupils at Risk

Support and counselling for young people is available through Drug Intervention Service Cheshire (DISC). Staff should not guarantee confidentiality to a young person disclosing drug use. The National Drugs Helpline number will be displayed in school.

The Law

There is no legal obligation to inform the Police of any drug related incident, but they may be able to give relevant advice and support. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug.

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Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

Except where there are concerns for the safety of the young person, the head teacher will contact the parents so that they can work together to support the young person involved. Issues relating to concerns staff may have about drug-using parents should be notified to the SMT who will decide on the appropriate action.

Discipline

DCfS circular 4/95 and advice from NAHT advises us that ‘... Schools will want to develop a repertoire of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling, reflecting the different kinds of drug related offences, such as possession of an illegal drug, individual use and selling or sharing drugs with other pupils.’ It states that permanent exclusion should be used only ‘as a last resort when all other reasonable steps have been taken...’. This School will:

- consider each incident individually
- consider carefully the implications of any action, particularly the academic and social needs of the young person
- use a differentiated set of responses
- work to protect the vulnerability of all pupils
- remember the School may be the safest place for the young person.

Roles of the Head teacher and Governing Body

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and LEA and appropriate outside agencies. Where available, basic drugs training will be offered to staff, parents and governors.

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.

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