



## **Drugs Policy**

### **1 Scope**

Teignmouth Community School is an all-through learning community for 3-19 year olds based on two sites. This is a whole school policy under continuous review by Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Directors because of the changing drug scene both nationally and locally.

### **2 Requirements**

#### **Ethos and Rationale**

The philosophy of the school is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment to ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and thrive in a safe and stimulating environment. Students are expected to show high levels of engagement, courtesy and cooperation in and out of lessons in order to ensure that a positive and healthy ethos is created throughout the whole school using age and stage appropriate systems. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason all drugs require appropriate and reasonable care management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

#### **Definition of a Drug:**

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and over the counter and prescribed medicines, as well as new psychoactive substances, illegal drugs and other unauthorised substances.

### 3 Our Aims

- To ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum at school

#### Drugs on School Premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

#### *Medicines*

The school has a policy and procedure in place for the administration of prescribed medication that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow guidance specified by Department for Education and Employment and Department for Health.

#### *Alcohol*

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of the school day. Pupils and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents/cares will be asked to collect their children.

#### *Smoking*

The school is a no smoking site at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to the school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. For health and safety reasons any items found on school premises will be confiscated and parents/carers will be contacted.

### *Illegal Drugs*

The school operate a zero tolerance system in relation to illegal substances. No drugs are allowed to be brought on to, used, sold or supplied on school premises. To assist the school in delivering this zero tolerance approach to illegal drugs, we liaise closely with Devon and Cornwall Police on matters of education and, when necessary, the Principal may request the use of Passive Drugs Dogs on school site to support our zero tolerance stance on illegal drugs.

### *Solvents*

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come in to contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of 'sniffable' products.

### **Responses to drug related incidents:**

A drug incident may be:

- finding of drugs or related paraphernalia on school premises;
- possession of drugs by an individual or group of pupils on school premises;
- an individual being under the influence of drugs on school premises;
- the supply of drugs on school premises;
- individuals disclosing information about their drug use;
- rumours, or reports that visitors, staff or pupils are using drugs.

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises the school will prioritise the safety of the pupil and those around them. If necessary it will be dealt with as a medical emergency and First Aid will be administered with appropriate support summoned. If the pupil is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will come in to effect and social services may be contacted.

The school are aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents and seeks to work in line with local and national guidance as outlined in the DfE and ACPO Drugs Advice for Schools document (2012). The Vice Principal Inclusion

will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with relevant outside agencies. All incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Principal. Incidents whereby a Type A class drug is used, or if substantial amount of illegal substances is found, the matter is reported to the police as a matter of urgency. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours. If the police are involved in any incident parents /carers will be informed and will be given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

School reserve the right to search students' bags if they have reason to believe they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances. Similarly students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out by the Intervention Team, Lead Tutors or members of the Senior Leaders. In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools school will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior staff members;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interest of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

Evidence of drug use or possession will not necessarily result in permanent exclusion. The schools' response to drug-related incidents will balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned, with the wider school community. Permanent exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with the DCSF Guidance on Exclusions. Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions may vary according to the severity of the incident and the pupil's involvement. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its

purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

Appropriate support will be offered to those students who have substance related difficulties.

### **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not be disclosed to anyone else. If a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation or reason, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to ensure the child is safe and not at considerable risk. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

### **Support**

At TCS welfare is paramount. We maintain that whenever possible constructive strategies to enable pupils to continue to benefit from education are preferable to exclusion. Support is available by the following staff at school:

- Student Welfare Officer
- Student Safeguarding Officers
- Intervention Behaviour Support Team
- Key Stage 3 and 4 Inclusion Coordinators
- Lead Tutors
- Tutors
- Student Support Team
- Young Carer Leader
- DAF Leader
- SENCO / Centre for Appropriate Learning

Drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE which is embedded within our school enrichment programme. It is delivered in a supported environment where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel comfortable asking

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for help if necessary. School makes every effort to identify needs and aim to distinguish between pupils who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require detailed needs assessment and more intensive support. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or somebody else's, including family members. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies and possible referrals to specialist support. The school has up-to-date sources of help on the website and local and national helplines are visible on toilet cubicle doors.

School Directors are regularly updated on all aspects of student welfare and behaviour; any incidents involving use of illegal substances are reported to the Board via a portfolio report and by the Principal. One of our Student Safeguarding Officers is also a Parent Director.

The name of our School Liaison Officer is Chris Armes who can be contacted on the following email address: [Chris.ARMES@devonandcornwallpnn.police.uk](mailto:Chris.ARMES@devonandcornwallpnn.police.uk).

PC Rachel Croft (Youth Intervention officer) can also be contacted at: [Rachel.CROFTS1@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Rachel.CROFTS1@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk).

## Amendment Record

VERSION #	DATE	AMENDED BY	NATURE OF CHANGE
1	05/09/2016	K. Ray	Implementation of Policy
2	19/10/2016	K. Ray	Add the use of Passive Drugs Dogs and close liaison with D&C Police. Enter P.C Rachel Croft's details.

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