Mulberry
Academy London Dock

Drugs Policy

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Statement of intent

The school is committed to a co-ordinated approach to drugs education and information, which enables all students to make healthy and informed choices. This policy aims to provide a framework for both the delivery of drugs education and the school response to drug-related incidents. These two elements are closely interlinked.

Mulberry Academy London Dock actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies.

Key principles

- A co-ordinated and consistent approach to drugs education and the management of drug related incidents.
- The health and safety of students is paramount when dealing with any drug-related incident
- Integration of the drugs education programme into the science, PSHE and the broader curriculum.
- A drugs education programme which is appropriate to the needs and maturities of students, which reflects students' local circumstances, current knowledge and attitudes towards drugs.
- The involvement of the whole school community, including staff, Local Advisory Board members, parents, students and relevant outside agencies within the drugs education programme.
- To encourage and enable relevant training and support for teaching and teaching support staff in drugs education

Links to other school Policies

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding policy

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through a variety of lessons, social wellbeing and working with outside agencies.

We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed. Please refer to our Medical Conditions Policy

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers 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.

Smoking

Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

In addition to this, substances controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act include the following:

- Cannabis
- LSD
- Ecstasy
- Amphetamines
- Heroin
- Methadone
- Cocaine
- Crack
- Barbiturates
- Tranquillisers
- Processed Magic Mushrooms

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- there is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- allowing a student to remain in Mulberry Academy London Dock would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with *Behaviour & Discipline in Schools* (January 2016) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or poses a threat to another student or member of the public or could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed.

If a student is found in possession of any controlled substances, the Police will be informed. The way in which the student is dealt with will vary; depending upon factors such as age, whether there is obvious drug dependency, home circumstances and previous disciplinary record. However, unless there is very good reason (e.g. child protection issues) parents will always be informed.

All illegal substances will be stored away safely and given to our Safer School Officer who will take them off the premises.

Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Working with the Police

Right to Search

In line with recent legislation, the staff at Mulberry Academy London Dock reserve the right to search students in accordance with the school's search and confiscation policy, if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.