



# Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

**Date of Original Policy:** December 2015  
**Member of Staff Responsible:** Mrs K O'Sullivan, Lead Teacher PE/PD  
**Review date:** September 2020 (biannual policy)

**'This policy was reviewed and has been impact assessed in the light of all other school policies including the Disability Equality Scheme.'**

Parkside Community School recognises that we live in a society in which drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances, including new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs' are available and widely used. We believe that we have an obligation to inform and empower our students to enable them to make decisions that will result in them enjoying a healthy, active and responsible lifestyle.

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'drug' will refer to any non-life sustaining substance that enters the body and alters the physical, emotional and mental state of the individual, and can change the way they feel, think or behave.

## 1. Policy Statement

- Parkside School does not condone the misuse of drugs by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- Parkside School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- Parkside School acknowledges the importance of its role in safeguarding the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.

## 2. Principles

Parkside School believes that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

We believe that the education of our students is a partnership between the home and school. Drug misuse is an issue for parents and the local community as well as for the school. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is increasing there are far larger numbers of them who choose not to use such substances. We will strive to affirm and support their decision.

In line with DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools September 2012, students who are affected by their own or others drug misuses will have early access to support through school and other local services.

### **3. Role of the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher**

The Headteacher will take overall responsibility for:

- The policy and its implementation
- Liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies
- The provision of adequate training and support for all staff

The Deputy Headteacher will:

- Have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy
- Ensure that the school and Governors are aware of up-to-date educational good practice and necessary training needs.

The Lead Teacher of PD will:

- Be responsible for the co-ordination of the drug education programme.

### **4. Drug Education**

At Parkside School we believe and support the following education aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing coping skills
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- To seek to minimise the risk that users and potential users face.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curriculum activities. We teach drug education mainly through PD Science and English areas but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Should students wish to talk to the school nurse in confidence appointments can be arranged.

### **5. Management of Drug Incidents**

We acknowledge that there will still be some young people of school age who will choose to experiment with illegal drugs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to

resist peer pressure. With this in mind it is necessary for us to have clear procedures for with drug related incidents on school premises and for working with other services concerned with young people to offer appropriate advice and support.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and we recognise that a variety of responses incorporating both sanctions and counselling, will be necessary to deal with incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action we may take, seeking to balance the interests of the student involved, the other members of the school and the local community. Permanent exclusion will be used as a last resort as we recognise that this may only transfer the problem.

**The school is aware of its legal obligations with regard to these issues. The school will continue to work closely with the school's Police Liaison Officer on all issues relating to drug incidents with our students.**

## PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Key: ● =Possible strategies dependent on individual situations

Procedure	Recognise and drug related	Confiscate	Remove student from circulation	Contact Parents	Record	Counsel student involve Ext. Services	Counsel student and Parent/Carer	Parents collect immediately	Inform Police	Fixed term exclusion	Governs formal warning	Permanent exclusion.
<b>☐ Offence</b>												
Graffiti	●	●		●	●	●	●					
Jewellery/Clothing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					
<b>☐ In possession of</b>												
Cigarettes, Lighters etc	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
E-cigarettes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Alcohol	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Drug use accessories	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Syringes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Psychoactive substances/ Legal Highs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
<b>☐ Use/Under the influence during school hours</b>												
Cigarettes/E-cigarettes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Alcohol	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Psychoactive substances / Legal Highs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>☐ Illegal Drugs</b>												
Use or in possession	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Suspicion Use or Involvement	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Supplying on site	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●