

THE HARVEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Drugs Education and Drug Misuse Policy

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Statement of Intent

The school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take whatever action is deemed to be appropriate to safeguard their individual and collective well-being.

The school is a “drugs-free zone”, where the possession, use of, and being under the influence of drugs are not tolerated.

The school will not tolerate the supply of illegal substances, or their (mis)use, by members of the school community.

The school recognises the importance of its pastoral responsibilities in enhancing the welfare of its students and, through the provision of a caring and supportive ethos, will encourage students to seek appropriate help.

For the purposes of this policy a ‘drug’ is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes but is not limited to:

- All Illegal Substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal Highs

Drugs Education

The school provides a programme which has due regard to pupils’ maturity and includes all relevant factual information but, in so doing, ensures that there is no danger of the issues involved becoming glamorised. It recognises that pupils need to not only be made aware of the consequences of substance (mis)use but also to be apprised of strategies which will enable them to avoid such (mis)use.

Drug Misuse

When a member of staff suspects that an individual pupil has become involved in the use/abuse of an illegal or inappropriate substance, the following action will be taken:

The relevant information will be immediately communicated to both the Headteacher and to the school’s designated Child Protection Co-ordinator, even where the information has been communicated to that member of staff “in confidence”; unlike priests and doctors, there is no obligation of silence required of educational professionals.

- The pupil will be interviewed by the Child Protection Co-ordinator and/or the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) or another senior member of staff.
- If the circumstances are such that unlawful activity has taken place away from the school site and at a time when the pupil was not recognisable as a member of the school, then the pupil’s parents/carers will be informed, and relevant information recorded on the pupil’s personal school record. Although the pupil will normally be allowed up to three days from the date of the interview to personally inform his parents/carers of his unacceptable behaviour before the school establishes contact with his home, the school reserves the right to make immediate contact.
- Where there is evidence of substance abuse within the school site, or out of school at a time when the pupil was recognisable as a member of the school, then the pupil’s parents/carers will be

contacted without delay and the pupil will serve a fixed term external exclusion for a period of up to fifteen school days, as determined by the Headteacher or, in his absence, by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral). Should the pupil re-offend, then the school reserves the right to permanently exclude the child from the school.

- Where there is evidence of a pupil supplying drugs to others, whether in the school environment or in the wider community, regardless of whether or not he was recognisable as a member of the school at the time, then his parents/carers and our external support services will be informed without delay. The school reserves the right to permanently exclude the child from school with immediate effect. In such cases, the school will pass to the Police all available evidence related to the incident/s.
- Except in the case of a permanent exclusion, where the pupil ceases to be a member of the school, pupils involved in substance (mis)use (and their parents/carers) will be offered the school's pastoral support, both directly and in accessing the external support services best able to assist, including the drugs rehabilitation programme organised by Kent Police.

Drugs and Ill Health

At any one time, there will be pupils receiving treatment for a variety of medical conditions which do not prevent them from attending school. The school will co-operate in ensuring that such pupils receive the appropriate medication in prescribed doses at relevant times and that any drugs (with the exception of inhalers for asthma) are securely stored during the school day. The following arrangements will apply:

- Drugs supplied by a medical practitioner as part of a short-term course of treatment (such as antibiotics) or longer-term programme (such as "Ritalin") must be deposited by the pupil at the School Office immediately on his arrival at school and the School Office visited at appropriate times throughout the school day (usually breaks and lunch-time) so that the medication can be taken as prescribed. The role of the members of the administrative staff in this matter will be to provide the medication on request. Where parents/carers consider that adult assistance with medication is required, a formal written request must be submitted to the Headteacher who will provide an immediate (telephone) response which will be promptly confirmed in writing.
- Where medication is required to provide immediate relief, as with inhalers in the case of asthma sufferers, the pupil will be allowed to carry the treatment with him at all times except in the case of lessons in Physical Education and Sport where changing out of normal clothing is necessary. In these circumstances, inhalers must be handed to the member of staff responsible for the activity and, in order to avoid confusion, it is necessary that all such inhalers are marked with their owners' names.

Safeguarding

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.

All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put pupils in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for Early Intervention and Early Help for a pupil who is misusing drugs or alcohol.

Pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Conclusion

The school's over-riding aim, in respect of potential substance abuse as in all other things, is to ensure a safe environment for all its members and to seek to provide such guidance and the appropriate level of support for its pupils as will be necessary to make them both responsible members of the school community and mature future citizens. Every attempt will be made to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills which are necessary if they are to cope effectively with all the demands and pressures, including peer pressures, which will inevitably come their way.