



ETHOS

The purpose to the school's drugs policy is to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school. Further, it serves to reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of our staff and students.

The school will take all necessary steps possible and open to us in order to enforce the good practice of zero tolerance to drugs and to maintain a drugs free school. The document defines drugs as including alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

Any person (pupil, staff or other) found to have, or to be using, illegal substances on school property will be reported to the Police, as it is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- The responsibility for the management of drug incident will be designated to the Senior Leadership Team.
- In all cases the Headteacher and Northern House Academy trust COE will be informed as they hold responsibility for discipline within the school.
- Any parent/carer/student under the influence of either drugs or alcohol will not be allowed on the school premises.

AIMS

- To educate our pupils so that they are knowledgeable and fully aware of the risks associated with drugs, both legal and illegal.
- To equip pupils with the skills to resist outside pressures and minimise harm.
- To give our pupils the knowledge and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and develop their informed decision making skills.

HOW WE ADDRESS DRUGS THROUGH EDUCATION

1. Pupils will receive accurate information about the effects of drugs both legal and illegal through the PSHE and science curriculum at each Key Stage, with the level of detail and approach matched to the age and maturity of the pupils.
2. Our drugs education programme will form part of our 'Healthy Schools Approach'.
3. We allow opportunities to discuss these issues in a sensible manner as part of the P.S.H.E. programme, the Science and PE curriculum and within the residential setting.
4. Without condoning the use of drugs, we will give pupils harm reduction information as appropriate connected to the highly dangerous practices associated with some forms of drug taking.
5. Pupils will have access to external sources of information, advice and support regarding drug- related issues.
6. The School will have a named person to co-ordinate and disseminate current information to staff and pupils. This will be Rebecca Archer, Head of PSHE.



HOW WE ADDRESS DRUGS THROUGH SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

1. Pupils will be made aware that we will discuss our concerns with their family and any relevant agency if we feel that their safety is at risk.
2. Pupils will be withdrawn from certain activities and closely supervised if it is felt they are under the influence of drugs, or their personal safety may be at risk. Parents, carers, social workers and police may be informed.
3. Strong action will be taken against those pupils felt to be exerting an influence on others with regard to drug taking or the supplying of drugs to others. In most circumstances this will mean permanent exclusion from this school.
4. If we have reason to believe that pupils are involved with supplying drugs the Police will be notified and the pupil will be suspended while the matter is investigated. If proven to be dealing the student will be permanently excluded.
5. If we suspect that pupils are in possession of illegal drugs we may need to search a student. This will be done by two members of staff and will be recorded. Where possible the search will take place with the student present. Where the student is suspected of concealing drugs on their person every effort will be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances. This will be achieved by asking the student to turn out his pockets. If the pupil refuses then the Police will be called.
6. The school will respond calmly, promptly, appropriately, fairly and consistently with an opportunity for full investigation.
7. Minor incidents of drug possession can be dealt with as an internal discipline matter; the school's Head of Care will be notified at some stage to facilitate any appropriate follow up work.
8. All drugs confiscated from pupils should be logged, locked securely away and immediately reported to the police for collection and on the advice of the police will be disposed of safely.
9. Any pupil caught dealing will be permanently excluded.