



# The Angmering School

Ambition

Courage

Respect

## **DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT 2023**

Reviewed by the Governors : July 2023

Next Review due: July 2025

## **A Statement of Policy: Drugs Education**

Every school has the responsibility to consider its response to drugs. This responsibility was made statutory within the Children's Act 2004 and Inspection Act 2006. Referral was made to the paper 'Reducing drugs misuse and dependence' of March 2013, the DfE & ACPO drug advice for schools of September 2012 and the Police 'Protocol for Suspected Illegal Drugs Seized by Secondary and Higher Education premises' of March 2017.

The Angmering School is committed to ensuring a safe, secure and rights respecting learning environment for all students. The misuse of drugs poses a threat to our students' health, general welfare and ability to achieve their full academic and social potential.

The term 'drugs' encompasses illegal and legal drugs, including tobacco, alcohol, solvents and medicines, and 'legal highs' that can be bought over the counter or the internet. The school is a 'smoke-free' environment and tobacco smoking is not allowed on the school site by school rules and in any of the buildings by law. The consumption of alcohol is limited to adult social events outside school hours.

The Angmering School takes a zero tolerance approach to the possession, use or distribution of drugs on school site. This reflects our belief that they represent a real and present risk to the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

All staff have a role in responding to drug related incidents and the safeguarding of children in relation to drug related incidents and relevant training is given. They work within the school's guidelines and do not promise confidentiality to a student as this may affect their ability to safeguard them. Reference to the Headship and Safeguarding Team is made as soon as possible and each case is dealt with based on the evidence presented and the specific set of circumstances in line with our school Behaviour Policy.

Close working with the police, including close working with the local Schools Prevention Officer, and outside agencies is essential for preventative work around harmful substances. This is especially important in relation to sharing intelligence in order to protect children and families from the risks associated with 'county lines' activity.

Parental support for our policy is sought from our induction process onwards. Clear boundaries are made known to students and parents and are acted on swiftly.

Parents are immediately informed of any drug-related incidents involving their child or suspected drug-related incident involving their child, unless there is a Child Protection issue in which case the Designated Safeguarding Lead's advice is sought. Parent meetings with outside agencies are arranged where necessary and information is shared with key agencies for safeguarding purposes as necessary.

A high quality, wide ranging programme to educate the students regarding drug misuse is delivered through our Science programme, building on their knowledge from KS2 and primary school input. It also continues in various forms, through other subjects, from Years 7 to 13, particularly in Perspectives lessons.

## **Guidelines**

Drug related incidents will include, but are not exclusive to:-

- Possession of cigarettes, smoking related paraphernalia and alcohol.
- Possession of vaping equipment and paraphernalia.
- Possession of a harmful or illegal substance for own use by a student.
- Possession with intent to supply harmful or illegal substances on school premises.
- Discovery of drugs or paraphernalia on school premises.
- Discovery of the intent to supply harmful or illegal substances in the vicinity of school premises.
- Intoxication of a student.
- Disclosure of drug misuse by a student.
- A parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs on school premises.

Factors affecting assessment of drug related incidents include, but are not exclusive to:-

- Rumour versus definite evidence.
- Un-intoxicated versus intoxicated.
- Pleasure seeking versus personal trauma.
- No immediate danger versus medical emergency.
- Careful low-risk use versus reckless as to safety.
- Uncontrolled drug versus Class A or B illegal drug.
- Possession of a small quantity versus intent to supply.
- Manipulation or coercion versus wilful supply.
- Admission versus denial.
- First offence versus persistent offender.

After immediate medical needs have been addressed, the nature and circumstances of the incident are established.

Referral to outside agencies may be necessary where a child is using drugs to cope with personal anxiety or problems or where there is a concern about persistent usage or addiction. Assessment is always carried out systematically and a range of responses implemented. The responses depend on a variety of factors as above but will also take into account safety and rights of other students in the school as well as the vulnerability of a potentially permanently excluded child. As part of the assessment process, the school may choose to insist on a drugs test being taken if a student is presenting behaviour as if under the influence of harmful substances. The decision to introduce a drug test may be taken if a child is unwilling or unable to identify the substance they have consumed.

The school will also insist on the search of the personal possessions of a child found under the influence of substances or whom the school has reasonable suspicion or evidence to suggest that the child is in possession of drugs, drug-related items or other substances. This will always be done with two members of staff present, with any materials immediately placed in the school safe and done in line with The Angmering School's Search, Screening and Confiscation Policy.

The range of responses used might include, but are not exclusive to:-

- Referral to outside agencies including the Youth Prevention Police Officer or the police via 101 or 999.
- Referrals to IFD (Integrated Front Door, housing the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help teams).
- Pastoral Support Plans.

- In-school counselling.
- Specialist consultation and intervention groups such as Change Grow Live, Sid Youth.
- Inter-agency education programmes.

Sanctions will be implemented based on the circumstances of each individual incident and depending on the drug concerned e.g. possession, use, sharing or dealing.

- Confiscation of drug related items and transfer of said items to the Police (applies in all cases).
- Interviews with parents and Youth Prevention Police Officer or the police (applies to smoking, alcohol and any incident with illegal drugs).
- Extended Reintegration as an alternative to suspension (applies to smoking, vaping, alcohol).
- Suspension (applies to alcohol and illegal drugs).
- Managed Move (applies to alcohol and illegal drugs).
- Permanent exclusion (applies to sharing or supplying of illegal drugs and possession of Class A drugs).
- Permanent exclusion may be considered for possession of Class B or Class C drugs.

### **Key Personnel:**

#### **The Headship Team:**

- Monitors the implementation of the **Drugs Education** Policy.
- Supports and advises on drug related incidents.

#### **The Deputy Headteacher ensures that:**

- Specific guidelines for dealing with drug related incidents are adhered to.
- Accurate and detailed records are kept of any drug related incidents, using the relevant forms and bags provided by the police.
- The relevant outside agencies are contacted where applicable, with specific information shared only in the interests of safeguarding. This includes contacting the police on 101 where an illegal drug is confiscated.
- Full consultation takes place before sanctions are applied.
- Students are referred to Change Grow Live or other relevant specialist support organisations.
- Liaison with the police takes place and that intelligence is passed where appropriate.
- Risk assessments are produced and shared with staff where appropriate.

#### **The DSL ensures that:**

- Referrals to IFD are made where appropriate.
- Accurate details of any drug related incident are recorded on CPOMS.
- Links are maintained with the Youth Prevention Officer in order to support restorative processes alongside the police colleagues.

#### **The Health Co-ordinator ensures that:**

- Breathe smoking programme is introduced and delivered.
- The drugs curriculum is monitored and updated as necessary.
- The role of the stop smoking advisers is developed in order to support students.

#### **Year Team Leaders ensure that:**

- All evidence is collected in relation to incidents within their year group.
- The issue of drug misuse is addressed in assemblies.
- Their team of tutors adhere to the specific guidelines on dealing with drug-related incidents.
- Any drug-related incidents are referred to the Headship Team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

**Tutors ensure that:**

- They foster the environment in their tutor groups which encourages the disclosure of any drug related incidents.
- They have a sound knowledge of their tutees in order to provide information when concerns arise and sanctions need to be applied.
- They are aware of any changes in behaviour of their tutees which could indicate drug misuse.
- Any drug related concerns are referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Year and Headship Teams.

**All staff ensure that:**

- They are aware of the Drugs Education Policy and how to deal with any drug related incidents.
- They monitor the behaviour of any students and report any changes immediately through the agreed channels.
- Any drug related concerns are referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Year and Headship Teams.
- Any medical concerns related to drug or substance misuse are immediately referred to the first aid and Medical Co-ordinator or any trained first aiders in his/her absence.

**First Aid and Medicals Co-ordinator ensures that:**

- Any medicines required for consumption during the school day are stored securely.
- Any medicines are administered in accordance with the instructions given.
- Any suspected drug related conditions are reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Year and Headship Teams.
- Any immediate medical attention required as a result of drug related incidents is given.

**Links with other Policies:**

- Behaviour.
- Anti-bullying.
- Exclusions.
- Search, Screening and Confiscation.
- Safeguarding.

**Success Criteria:**

- A low level of drug related incidents reported.
- Reduction in the number of students who smoke as indicated by letters sent home.
- Positive working partnerships with external agencies to work both proactively and reactively to reduce drug related incidents and share intelligence.
- Positive feedback from students regarding drug education.

Further advice can be gained from the CGL website (Change Grow Live - West Sussex Children and Young People's Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Service (Under 25 years old)).