



SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL

**SCHOOL POLICY ON
DRUGS**

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Revised and Re-adopted July 2004
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1. Aims and Objectives:

This policy seeks to:-

- 1.1 Support the school's commitment to the Health and Safety of its students within an ordered environment.
- 1.2 Establish procedures for any drug related incident.
- 1.3 Define the responsibilities of Governors, the Headteacher and all staff.
- 1.4 Establish with clarity the school's policy on drugs following changes in classification in February 2004.
- 1.5 Take account of the local problem with illegal drugs.

2. Policy Statement:

- 2.1 The Headteacher and Governing Body, in accordance with the aims expressed in Section 1 above, will view ANY incident involving illegal drugs with the utmost seriousness. Involvement with illegal substances will mean that the offender is at risk of permanent exclusion.
- 2.2 The above statement applies to the possession or supply of any illegal drug, whether on the school premises or in their vicinity, or during travel to or from school, or when involved in any school organised activity or educational visit.
- 2.3 In cases involving supply of illegal drugs (rather than simple possession) no exceptional circumstances whatsoever will be considered.
- 2.4 This policy of zero tolerance is formulated having duly considered DFES and LEA guidance and advice.
- 2.5 The school is a no smoking site. Students should not bring tobacco or smoking materials onto the school premises. Sanctions in accordance with the behavioural policy will be taken with any students breaking this rule.
- 2.6 Under no circumstances should students bring alcohol into school or consume alcohol on school premises, whilst travelling to and from school or whilst involved in any organised activity or educational visit. Any breach of this rule will be treated very seriously.
- 2.7 With reference to 2.5 and 2.6, if a student persistently ignores the no-smoking rule or endangers his or any other student's well-being through the abuse of alcohol a fixed-term or permanent exclusion could follow.

3. Definitions:

- 3.1 For the purposes of the policy, the school defines as a drug any substance capable of altering or impairing the function of the mind or body.
 - ie Illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy (or the misuse of other prescribed drugs)
 - Tobacco
 - Alcohol
 - Solvents

4. Drugs Education:

- 4.1 The school seeks to inform students of the potentially dangerous consequences of drug abuse and misuse.
- 4.2 The school, through the Personal Development Programme, and other appropriate areas of curriculum delivery, will strive to:-
 - 4.2.1 Enable students to make healthy, informed choices in order to resist peer pressure to get involved in illegal or unacceptable practices.
 - 4.2.2 Provide accurate information about all drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) and their harmful effects.
 - 4.2.3 Encourage understanding of students experiencing problems associated with addiction and provide information about the sources of personal support.
 - 4.2.4 Widen the understanding of related health and social issues such as HIV, AIDS and crime.

5. Procedures:

- 5.1 Incidents involving illegal drugs will be referred to the Headteacher (or in his absence the Deputy Headteacher in charge) who will:-
 - 5.1.1 Consider the health of the student and contact the medical authorities if required.
 - 5.1.2 Ensure the confiscation and removal of any substance(s).
 - 5.1.3 Contact the parent/guardian of the student.
 - 5.1.4 Inform the Chairman of Governors that an incident has occurred and report the same to the next Full Governors meeting, taking care not to compromise any future disciplinary panel.
 - 5.1.5 Inform the police if appropriate.
 - 5.1.6 Take disciplinary action as appropriate strictly in accordance with section 2 of this Policy Document.
- 5.2 Incidents involving tobacco, alcohol or solvents will be referred to the Headteacher (or in his absence the Deputy Headteacher in charge). The Headteacher will deal with such incidents in accordance with the School Behaviour Policy and instigate sanctions at his discretion.

6. Roles and Responsibilities:

6.1 The Governing Body will:

- 6.1.1 Approve and monitor the school's policy on drugs.
- 6.1.2 Convene disciplinary panels (as required) to deal with exclusions as a result of the application of the policy.

6.2 The Headteacher will:

- 6.2.1 Ensure compliance with the policy procedures above.
- 6.2.2 Manage any resultant publicity from drug related incidents, taking advice from the LEA if appropriate.
- 6.2.3 Ensure that all students are informed of the school policy on drugs and the probable outcome of any incident through assemblies, prospective parents events and the school prospectus.
- 6.2.4 Ensure that the team involved in family interviews convey the school's policy to prospective parents and students.

6.3 Staff will:

Ensure that any incident or suspected incident is reported to the Headteacher immediately.