

DRUGS POLICY

As a Roman Catholic school we believe our policy should reflect our mission statement, which calls on us to value each pupil and guide each pupil to enable them to be better Catholics and Christians. We are committed to the development, health and safety of all pupils and staff, and will provide appropriate support and referral to specialist agencies if required. The school believes that drug education of our pupils is vital to helping pupils make informed, value judgements that could affect the rest of their lives. Therefore PSHCE is important in the delivery of drug education.

The Barlow RC High School's drug policy applies to the whole school community, working on the school premises during the school day, after school and at evening events. It also applies to day trips and residential trips.

We acknowledge that there should be a consistent, balanced approach to education and incident management, and believe that drug education should be a whole school and community issue.

Policy Production

This policy has been written by the Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for PSHCE. It has been produced through consultation with the Deputy Head Teacher with responsibility for Pastoral Care, the Leadership Team, the PSHCE Co-ordinator, the Pastoral Learning Co-ordinators and MEP Drug Education Consultants. The school governor with responsibility for Drug Education is the Healthy School Governor, Mrs Waive.

Definition of Substances

Throughout this policy the term drug will refer to "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave" (definition given by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime).

The term "drug" for the purpose of this school policy will mean:

- Legal drugs (eg alcohol, tobacco, poppers, glues, gases, aerosol propellants)
- Illegal drugs (eg cannabis, Ecstasy, amphetamines) and
- Medicinal drugs, (eg Paracetamol, Insulin, Ventolin).

Drug Use

It is important to note that any drug use can be potentially harmful, whether through intoxication, breach of the law or of school rules, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately apparent. The school's first concern is the health and safety of all individuals in the school community. Therefore illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within school, on day trips or residential visits. The use of potentially harmful legal drugs such as tobacco, alcohol or gases is not

acceptable in school and such drugs will be confiscated and disposed of to avoid further harm.

National Situation

The following statistics are from the results of a major national survey of secondary schoolchildren aged 11-15 published by the Department of Health (DH) in 2005. The figures relate to 2004.

- 18% of pupils had used illegal drugs in 2004.
- Boys are slightly more likely to report using drugs than girls: 18% of boys reported taking drugs in 2004 compared to 17% of girls
- Use increased with age. 5 percent of 11-year-olds had used drugs in 2004 compared to 32% of 15-year-olds
- Cannabis is the most likely drug to have been used, with 11% of pupils reporting use in 2004.
- Class A drugs had been used by 4% of 11-15 year olds. One percent say they used heroin or cocaine
- Volatile substances, glues, gases and aerosols were misused by 6% of 11- to 15-year-olds.
- Among younger age groups volatile substances is more widely used than cannabis. In 2004 use is reported by 4% of 11-year-olds, 5% of 12-year-olds, 6% of 13-year-olds, 7% of 14-year-olds and 6% of 15-year-olds.

The Law regarding Legal Drugs

It is illegal to sell tobacco products to children under the age of 16 under the terms of the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991

Except for 16- or 17-year-olds having a meal in a pub, it's against the law for anyone under 18 to buy or be sold alcohol in a pub, off-licence, supermarket or other outlet, or for anyone to buy alcohol in a pub for someone under 18.

It is illegal for shopkeepers in England and Wales to sell a volatile substance to under-18s, or to people acting for them, if they suspect the product is intended for sniffing. Sale of butane to all under-18s is illegal anywhere in the UK.

SUBSTANCE RELATED INCIDENTS

Legal Drugs

- Staff who become aware of pupils smoking **cigarettes** or in possession of cigarettes should remove the cigarettes from the pupil if possible
- The pupil should then be referred to a member of the Leadership team who will deal with the issue using a range of sanctions
 1. Lunchtime detention
 2. Letter home
 3. Name on the Smoking Register
 4. Referral to the School Nurse

- Staff who are suspicious of pupils either being possession of **alcohol** or having taken alcohol must:
 1. Assess the medical needs of the pupil, calling for medical help if necessary
 2. Remove the alcohol from the pupil.
 3. Store the alcohol securely until the appropriate disposal can take place
 4. Call for a member of the Leadership team, School Welfare Officer or Pupil Learning Co-ordinator to interview the pupil.
 5. If the pupil appears to be unaffected or has not taken any of the alcohol then they must be placed in Internal Exclusion where they should be monitored in the first instance.
 6. Parents / Guardians of the pupil will be informed of the incident by the School Welfare Officer.
 7. The pupil may be temporarily excluded from school and parents will be expected to collect them.
 8. Counselling and support for the pupil from an appropriate agency may follow if it deemed necessary (Eclipse).
- Staff who suspects through changes in the behaviour of the pupil that **volatile substances** such as glue or aerosols are being used must confiscate the item and hand it over to the Pupil Learning Co-ordinator in the first instance. The symptoms may include some of the following:
 - Feeling euphoric dizzy, giggly and dreamy
 - Sometimes similar to being drunk
 - Hallucinations
 - Nausea, vomiting may accompany heavy doses
 - Strenuous activity following sniffing can cause fatal strain on the heart.
 - Squirting a pressurised substance (such as gas) into the mouth and throat causes sudden temperature drop which can swell the tissues, blocking them and causing death by asphyxia
 - Long-term symptoms range from confusion and headaches to recurrent nose-bleeds and weight loss

If consumption is suspected then

1. Assess the medical needs of the pupil, calling for medical help if necessary
2. Call for a member of the Leadership team, School Welfare Officer or Pupil Learning Co-ordinator to interview the pupil.
3. Parents / Guardians of the pupil will be informed of the incident by the School Welfare Officer.
4. Counselling and support for the pupil from an appropriate agency such as Eclipse may follow if it deemed necessary.
5. The volatile substance must be shown to the parents to allow them to understand the possible dangers of everyday items. The substance should be disposed of in a safe manner that does not harm the member of staff.

Illegal Drugs

- Staff who are suspicious or have concerns about the possible possession or use of illegal drugs on the premises must notify the School Welfare Officer immediately.
- The School Welfare Officer must assess the medical needs of the pupil, calling for medical help if necessary
- The School Welfare Officer will inform the Head Teacher before beginning the investigation.
- The School Welfare Officer will explain to the pupil why the investigation is taking place.
- The School Welfare Officer will, in the presence of a Deputy Head Teacher, ask permission to search the pupil's property. If permission is refused then the parents or guardians should be contacted at this point. The pupil must be kept away from other pupils and supervised closely.
- If the allegations are substantiated or in need of further investigation then the parents will be contacted.
- Appropriate courses of action may include:
 1. Interview with the Head teacher, Pupil learning Co-ordinator, pupil and parent / guardian
 2. Counselling and support from an appropriate agency such as the Young Persons Drug Service, Family Intervention.
 3. Fixed-term or permanent exclusion may be issued, based on the nature of the incident
 4. Contacting the police. The Head Teacher may take this decision after assessing the severity of the incident.
- The appropriate committee of the Governing Body will deal with students who are found to be selling or supplying drugs on the school premises.
- If a pupil discloses that they are using drugs off the school premises then staff should exercise their professional judgement about informing parents and the Leadership Team. Staff should encourage the pupil to talk to their parents and seek help where necessary.
- The Head teacher will deal with any approaches from the media.
- School personnel are not immune from substance-related problems. The LEA Schools Teaching Personnel Handbook guidance should be consulted and each incident will be dealt with in a fair and supportive manner.

MANAGING MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

The school adheres to the LA procedures for managing medicines in school. Staff are not required to administer medicines and parents must inform school in writing if their child requires prescription medicine during the school.

DRUG EDUCATION

Within the context of the School's Mission Statement we aim to provide all pupils with drug education within the curriculum, as well as ensuring that the appropriate support and guidance is given if any pupil experiences drug-related problems or concerns.

KEY STAGE 3

The pupils in Key Stage 3 receive information and skill training in PSHCE and Science.

PSHCE

There are dedicated lessons about the health issues connected with drug use in PSHCE Year 8 and 9 schemes of work. These give pupils knowledge about

- Legal and illegal drugs
- How drugs can affect people and their relationships.

The lessons allow pupils to discuss what they think they know and how they might resist the pressure of using drugs. Group work and teacher-led activities are used in the lessons.

Science

The topics of drugs, alcohol and tobacco are part of Health and Fitness in Year 9. Knowledge is shared through the pupils being involved in discussions, videos and Internet research. External research programmes are used when appropriate.

KEY STAGE 4

The delivery of drug education is through PSHCE and Science

PSHCE

Drug awareness is taught in Year 10 focussing on

- Why young people use drugs
- Who is to blame for drug taking
- Drugs in school
- An addict's story

As with Key Stage 3 a variety of teaching and learning methods are used including class discussions, group discussions, presentations and teacher-led activities.

Science

The topic Maintenance of Life in the Science syllabus covers the following areas

- Solvents
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Other drugs (though only a brief reference)

The topics are covered through discussion, experiments to look at the content of cigarettes, videos and research. An external research programme is used when appropriate.