

Eastbrook School



Drugs Education and Drug Related Incidents

Eastbrook School ensures that students have equal access to education programmes that equip them with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to make healthy and informed decisions about their lives now and in the future.

Our approach seeks to support the following aims in respect of drug use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practicing skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- To encourage an understanding about related health and social issues, for example sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users face
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support (Were a student to seek support from a member of staff concerning drug abuse, confidentiality about such disclosures would be respected as far as possible where the alleged use occurs off the school premises or outside any school time or activity and does not constitute a Child Protection concern.)

The school opposes the misuse of drugs by all members of the school community, including alcohol, tobacco and solvents. The school is opposed to the illegal possession or supply of these substances on its premises. This opposition extends to all school activities.

The school is committed to the health and safety of staff and students and we will take action to safeguard their well being. We are guided by the Government's 'Healthy Schools' initiative. We support the Barking and Dagenham policy on smoking. Eastbrook School is a non-smoking site. All visitors are expected to adhere to this requirement.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.

The school believes it has a responsibility to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

The school believes that Health Education is a vital part of the personal and social development of every student.

A fundamental principle of our school's values and practice, is working in partnership with parent / carers and the local community. We believe that effective communication and cooperation with parent / carers is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experience in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities.

Reviewed November 2018

The school actively co-operates with other agencies; the Health Authority, the link community police officer, social services, the MALT and Youth Agencies, to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Everyone associated with the school will be informed of the values embodied within this policy.

The Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and for liaison with the Governing Body, parent / carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies.

All instances of known or suspected drug use or misuse, on the school premises will be reported to the Headteacher or, in her absence, a Deputy Headteacher.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on school premises, during school time or on school activities, and following discussion with staff members who know the student(s) well, parent / carers will be informed as soon as possible by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The school and the family can then work together, to support the young person involved, and take appropriate action. This may involve working with the Community Police Officer, the School Health Advisor or appropriate partner agencies.

Disciplinary Issues

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with such incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the best interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community.

The school will consider permanently excluding students for supplying illegal substances on the school premises or during a school activity. Such incidents will always be reported to the police for investigation.

The school will consider permanently excluding students or excluding for a fixed period for consuming or being under the influence of any illegal substance on the school premises or during a school activity.

All such incidents which do not lead to a permanent exclusion will lead to a referral to the Governing Body Discipline Board and an Acceptable Behaviour Contract.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media with support from the LA Press Office and Legal Department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

Review

The school will ensure that this policy is reviewed in the light of changing circumstances and curriculum guidance,