



# SHAPWICK SCHOOL

# DRUG POLICY

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Drugs can have a devastating impact on young people's lives. Even relatively small amounts can affect a young person's education and prevent them from reaching their full potential. Drugs can also lead to major disruption within schools themselves. No school can afford to be complacent or think that its young people are not at risk. Having an effective prevention strategy is not only important for schools but is a central part of tackling drugs use and misuse more generally in society. The government's 10 year Drug Education Strategy ' Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain' recognises this and the vital role that schools have to play, alongside parents and a host of agencies, in helping young people protect themselves from the risks and harm of all drugs. If we are to prevent the young people of today becoming tomorrow's problematic drug users, we need to ensure that every young person receives good quality drug education and that those with problems are identified and supported before problems escalate.

DfE 0092/2004 Drugs: Guidance for Schools.

## **2. SCHOOL DESCRIPTION**

Shapwick School is a caring, friendly and purposeful community that provides education for boys and girls with specific learning difficulties. The school is situated within rural Somerset, near to the coast, the Mendips, Quantocks and Exmoor. Pupils aged 8-13 years are based largely at Shapwick Prep whilst Shapwick continues their education to GCSE and beyond in liaison with Bridgwater College. The school accepts full boarders, weekly boarders, flexi-boarders and day pupils.

## **3. VALUES AND ETHOS**

Shapwick School approaches the problem of dyslexia from the standpoint that dyslexics need help across the whole curriculum and that all staff are involved in the teaching of learning skills, together with the necessary development of study skills. The ethos is that of a specialist school, not a special school, where students with specific learning difficulties can come and function normally without being in competition with non-dyslexic peers and work in a non-threatening and non-hostile environment. The need for peer group recognition is under-stated for adolescents and the coupling of long term failure at school with non-recognition of their underlying problems is sometimes the seed for behaviour that conflicts with the family and societies values.

#### **4. DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY**

Drugs are defined broadly and include any substance that has the potential to affect how a person thinks, feels or behaves. (DfE 92/2004).

This includes;

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) e.g. cannabis, heroin, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines.
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates.
- All over the counter and prescription medicines.

#### **5. POLICY PRODUCTION AND APPLICABILITY**

The Headmaster of Shapwick School as well as the teacher with responsibility for Personal and Social Education have been responsible for the production of this policy and consultation continues between the staff, pupils and parents to ensure that the document adequately reflects the needs of our pupils.

There are many links between the Drugs Education Policy and other policies such as Child Protection, Sex and Relationships Education, Health and Safety, Smoking Policy and School Visits. Most importantly it must be noted that being under the School's authority means:

- Throughout the school day, whether on or off the premises,
- Whenever he/she is involved in any activity organised by the school
- Whenever he/she is identifiable as a member of the school,
- For a boarder, whenever he/she is under the direct responsibility of his/her houseparent.

#### **6. LINKS TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL OBJECTIVES**

This policy takes into account the following:

The National Drug Strategy.

Launched in 1998 by the Government, this strategy has young people as one of its key priorities and in recognition of drug education as a "central plank" of this strategy made it part of the National Curriculum and introduced a requirement for all schools to have an updated drugs policy in place. (Drugs Strategy 2002)

The aim of the strategy is to "prevent today's young people from becoming tomorrow's drugs misusers." Its key target in relation to young people is the "reduction of the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25, especially by the most vulnerable young people."

### National Healthy School Standard.

While there is a statutory requirement for schools to have a drug policy, since 2009 all schools are required to be working towards achieving National Healthy Schools Status and have a whole school, updated drug policy covering education and the management of incidents while covering minimum quality criteria as can be found in **National Healthy School Standard, Drug Education 2003.**

### Every Child Matters.

Under OFSTED's inspection framework all schools will be required to evidence the ways in which their teaching and operations contribute to the achievement of the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters, which are:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

Choosing not to take drugs is a key aim of the Be Healthy outcome (Every Child Matters: Young People and Drugs) but Shapwick School recognises that drug use can compromise the achievement of the other outcomes in the short and long term and will gear its approach to drugs education and the management of drug related incidents in such a way that it promotes the achievement of 5 outcomes for all children and the most vulnerable in particular.

## **DRUG EDUCATION.**

### **7. DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Shapwick recognises its responsibilities under The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 to promote racial equality and to improve the educational experience of all children and in particular those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Drug education in school will be sensitive to the cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds of pupils while maintaining that the purpose of education is to prepare them for drug related incidents they may encounter throughout their lives.

## **8. DRUG EDUCATION AIMS**

Drug education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions.

Drug education should:

- Provide accurate information,
- Correct misunderstandings,
- Build on knowledge and understanding,
- Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users,
- Develop pupil's understanding of rules and laws,
- Develop pupil's interpersonal skills,
- Develop pupil's self-awareness and self-esteem,
- Explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs,
- Be relevant to the needs of pupils and the school community.

## **9. DRUG EDUCATION CURRICULUM DELIVERY**

Drug Education is mandatory in accordance with the National Curriculum Science Order for key stages 1-4 but within Shapwick School we also deliver drug education through PSHE and Citizenship.

## **10. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

The aim of drug education at Shapwick School is to provide opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle relating this to their own and others lifestyles. This includes:

- The rules and laws relating to drugs,
- The short term and long term effects and risks of drugs,
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities,
- Peer pressure and avoiding it,
- How to seek advice,
- Addressing stereotypes,
- Analysing drugs and the media.

When students are discovered in the possession of illegal drugs when he/she is under the school's authority the following guidelines may be implemented:

- If it is sole use, found not to have affected others and is a first offence = temporary exclusion,
- Second offence = exclusion,

- If it can be proven that the student was dealing, then they will be permanently excluded from school.

**Tobacco:**

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society. The school policy on smoking gives pupils the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike, that non-smoking represents the norm in society and that it receives support from the school and staff.

**AIMS:**

- To ensure that cigarette smoking is not tolerated during school time either on or off school premises, including during school outings and trips,
- To educate pupils as to the immediate dangers of smoking,
- To encourage those pupils who do smoke to break free from the habit.

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco, is prohibited when a pupil is under the School's authority.

Pupils found smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco, can expect their parents to be informed. They will receive suitable punishment, supervised breaks, students would also be referred to the school nurse in order to discuss their smoking, they may be given nicotine patches as a result of this discussion. Subsequent offences may result in temporary exclusion.

**Alcohol:**

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accident is high. The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

**AIMS:**

- To develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body,
- To encourage sensible, appropriate and safe drinking behaviour,
- To practice personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present.

Drinking or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited:

- In school buildings or grounds (exception formal occasions sanctioned by the Headmaster),

- When under the authority of the school, in licensed premises and wherever prohibited by Law,
- Whilst on school outings and trips.

Members of the boarding community in the Sixth Form may visit 'The Old Station Lodge' with permission from their houseparent. The houseparent will accompany the students on their first visit to ensure that the Landlord knows who is over 18, this is a practice that has worked for a number of years due to the Sixth Form boarding house being located in a small rural village.

Pupils found in possession of alcohol or drinking it, whilst under the authority of the school will be temporarily excluded.

## **11. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME**

The school has a pro-active policy concerning the use of illegal drugs and substances, alcohol and tobacco. This is seen in assemblies, tutor periods, science lessons and PSHE.

In Science lessons the school follows the National Curriculum Science concerning Drug Education.

Year 9:

- How smoking affects lung structure, alcohol and drugs generally.

Key Stage 4:

- The effects of solvents, alcohol and tobacco on the body and functions.

In PSHE the following issues are addressed:

Key Stage 3:

- Knowledge about the facts concerning substances including their effects and relevant legislation,
- The development of appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substances abuse occurs,
- Recognising personal responsibility for decisions about substance abuse.

Key Stage 4:

- Understanding that Britain is a drug- using society and recognise different patterns of use and their effects,
- Recognise the impact of peer group pressure on drug habits,
- Individuals are responsible for the choices they make about drug use,
- Being able to analyse safe levels of intake e.g. tobacco is never safe, limited use of alcohol maybe safe,

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- Discussing the roles of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs, particularly smoking and alcohol.

## **12. DRUG TESTING**

Where there is concern about a pupil regarding the misuse of drugs or they are caught in the possession of drugs, the student would be required to take a drug test, at their own expense, with consent from the student's parents.

## **13. CONFIDENTIALITY**

As an important source of support for pupils experiencing problems with drugs, Shapwick School will respect the right to confidentiality of its pupils but will make clear that "teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality." DfE Drugs Guidance for schools 2004. There are important reasons why personal and sensitive information needs to be shared including a teacher's professional responsibilities in relation to Child Protection, co-operating with a police investigation and referral to external services.

The Data Protection Act and Crime and Disorder Act also allow personal information to be shared if there is an over-riding interest in the first instance or to prevent crime and disorder in the second. However, in assessing the suitability of sharing information all efforts will be made to encourage the pupil to give their informed consent.

The following questions should also be considered:

- a- How serious is the situation?
- b- What immediate and significant risks does the young person face?
- c- What implications both positive and negative could keeping a confidence have?
- d- What significant harm could result from keeping the pupils disclosure?

Pupils will be made aware of the limits of confidentiality before they disclose a confidence whenever possible. If a confidence needs to be broken the school will explain to the pupil (and parents/carers as appropriate):

- Why the confidence has been broken.
- Who will be informed.
- What will be disclosed.
- How the information will be used.
- That their privacy will still be respected and information is shared on a need to know basis.

Shapwick School will ensure that all staff, teaching and non teaching, understand the limits of confidentiality.

To be reviewed on or before 01.09.12

Drug policy