

SANDY UPPER SCHOOL



DRUGS EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Effective Date: November 2015

Last Reviewed: November 2015

Reviewed by: Karen Hayward

Next Review Date: November 2016

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1 Introduction

This policy seeks to define Sandy Upper School's role both in educating young people about drugs and in managing Sandy Upper School's response to incidents which are drugs related, or appear to be so.

For the purposes of this policy statement drugs are defined as those substances, both illegal and legal, whose use and misuse can have potentially harmful physical and psychological effects.

2 Aims

2.1 Drugs Education

- To enable students to make healthy informed choices by gaining knowledge and challenging attitudes.
- To provide accurate up-to-date information on all substances, both legal and illegal; to increase understanding about drugs related health and social issues, e.g. crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To minimise risks that users and potential users face, by increasing understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug abuse.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

2.2 Drugs Management

- To provide a learning environment this is free from drugs.
- To provide a clear and co-ordinated response by staff to drugs related issues.

2.3 Practices and Procedures

- Sandy Upper School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the School seeks to persuade students in need of support with drug related problems to come forward.
- Sandy Upper School does not condone the misuse of drugs by members of Sandy Upper School, nor the supply of any illegal substances.
- Sandy Upper School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.
- Sandy Upper School has a positive and supportive approach to health education fulfilled through aspects of the taught curriculum and through the central ethos of the School. In the taught curriculum the programme is rooted in SMSC and general studies but is also developed through subject specific work in areas such as science.
- Sandy Upper School co-operates with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services and Health and Drugs agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. The Sandy Upper School will always involve the Neighbourhood Support Officer or School Liaison Officer in any incident which appears to involve illegal substances.
- The Principal takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation in liaison with the Governing Body.
- Any incident which is thought to be drugs-related must be reported to a senior member of staff. The Sandy Upper School will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary. Parents/Guardians will always be informed. If the incident involves the possession of an illegal drug, Sandy Upper School will impose exclusion, and a particularly serious view will be taken of any student involved in the drugs. Sandy Upper School will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take, which may not only include exclusion/isolation but also counselling support and therapy.
- Any dealing of drugs by a member of Sandy Upper School will usually result in a permanent exclusion.

2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

- Training needs will be reviewed annually.
- This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body as required.

3 Managing Drugs Incidents

3.1 Involving Parents and Guardians

Parents/Guardians should be informed if the School become suspicious or concerned that their child is/has been involved with the possession or supply of illegal (controlled) drugs. However, there are some points to consider.

- What will the parental reaction be?
- Who is the most appropriate person to actually contact parents/guardians?
- It is often advisable that the young person involved tells their parents/guardians about the situation.
- Young people should be informed about any parental/guardian contact.
- If parents/guardians are called to the School, consider whether it would be helpful to involve the young person at that meeting.

N. B. There may be legitimate grounds for NOT informing parents if it is clear that:

- They may seriously over-react and pose a physical threat to the young person.
- The parents are suspected directly involved in the situation causing concern.

N. B. In these cases the Child Protection Officer and Police will advise.

3.2 Talking about Drugs

A member of the Senior Leadership Team or House Team of the School should be designated with the responsibility for talking with the student. A second adult should be present at all times to corroborate what is said or occurs.

3.2.1 Do's

- Stay calm.
- Check the young person agrees to talk to you. They may be more open with a different person.
- Clarify "confidentiality" and set ground rules for the discussion.
- Be clear as to why you are talking.
- LISTEN.
- Focus on the person involved – NOT THE DRUG.
- Ask open questions.
- Have access to accurate drug information.
- Set a time limit to the session.

3.2.2 Don'ts

- Don't over-react.
- Don't question the young person, other than to ensure the safety of that person or another if the incident is to be reported to the Police for investigation.
- Don't question anybody who is intoxicated or suspected to be "under the influence of drugs".
- Don't intimidate or scare the young person.
- Don't moralise or judge.
- Don't expect them to agree.

4 The Law

There are two common offences that young people commit under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

- Possession of a controlled/illegal drug.
- Supplying a controlled/illegal drug.

N. B. Managers of premises can commit an offence by knowingly allowing anyone on the premises to

provide, supply or offer to supply a controlled drug.

4.1 "Controlled Drugs" under the Act include:

Class A	Class B	Class C
Heroin Methadone LSD Cocaine (including "Crack") "Ecstasy" (MDMA) Cannabis Oil "Processed" "Magic Mushrooms" Injectable (manufactured) Amphetamine	Amphetamines Cannabis Barbiturates Codeine	Tranquillisers Anabolic Steroids

4.2 Contacting the Police

The Principal should react to each individual occurrence, considering:

- The needs and safety of the child and others.
- The nature and severity of the "offence" – possession/supplying?
- DFE 4/95 states "The Secretary of State ... would expect the Police to be informed when illegal drugs are found on a student or on Sandy Upper School premises".
- Can Sandy Upper School respond satisfactorily alone?
- Can the Police offer extra support?

It is important that the Police are made aware of local drugs issues. They will offer support and guidance wherever possible when contacted by the Principal regarding incidents.

N. B. "Local" relationships with Police Officers will often be beneficial in the informal resolution of some incidents – please refer to "Useful Contacts".

5 Seizing Substances

The following offers an immediate guide to the procedure that will be followed in the event of a student being suspected of being in possession of a prohibited item. This aspect of the Drugs Policy is intended to work in line with the Restraint, Search and Seizure Policy. Sandy Upper School staff can search students with their consent for any item which is banned by the School rules.

The staff, authorised by the Principal, have the power to search students or their possessions, without consent, where they suspect the student has a prohibited item.

Prohibited items are:

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs

- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property
- any item banned by the School rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

If a suspicious substance is seized from a student, to avoid prosecution for the offence of being in unlawful possession of a controlled drug, the seizure should only be made to “prevent them from further committing an offence of ‘possession’, or to prevent harm”.

Considerable care should be taken when handling any suspicious substance, if possible use rubber gloves to place the substance in a secure, clearly labelled container, which should be placed immediately in a safe place.

Any “sharps” (needles, etc.) should be placed in a container designed for that purpose (see “Health and Safety” – useful contacts).

5.1 Possible actions (which should be witnessed by an adult) are:

Seize – place in container,
Labelled, in a safe locked place

Hand to Police as evidence or for “informal” analysis

Record actions
(witnessed)

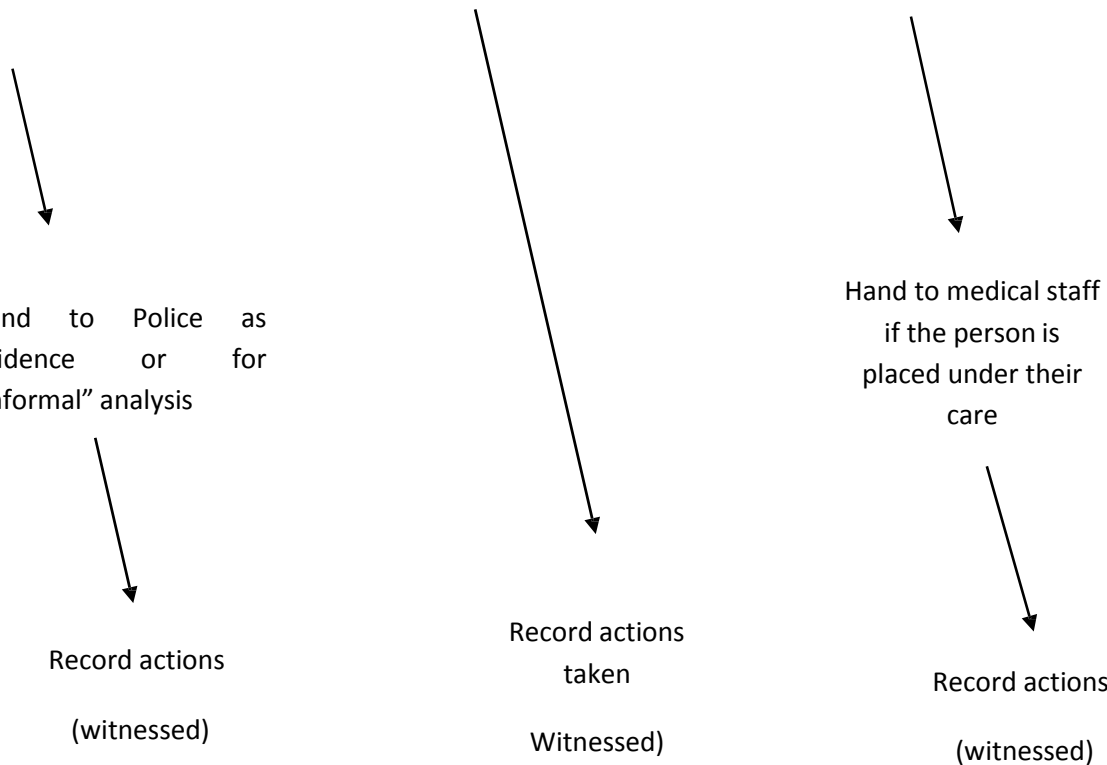
Seize – destroy the substance (flushing down the toilet)

Record actions taken
Witnessed)

Seize – place in container, labelled, in a safe locked place

Hand to medical staff if the person is placed under their care

Record actions
(witnessed)



5.2 Analysis of Drugs Seized

Under NO circumstances should Sandy Upper School attempt to analyse any substances they suspect to be illegal drugs.

- Police (Community Services Officers) locally are trained in the elementary analysis of substances and will CONFIDENTIALLY test substances subject of incidents in the School.
- There will be no obligation on the School to fully report the occurrence subsequent to such testing. However, it is hoped that information that might assist the Police in tackling drugs would be passed on, as is the present practice.

6 Confidentiality

- Confidentiality should be defined in each circumstance and ground rules of what can be expected should always be set with the person involved.
- It is not possible to offer complete confidentiality in any circumstance (Sandy Upper School Child Protection Guidelines).
- Confidentiality cannot be offered if the health and well-being of a young person and others is likely to be adversely affected.

7 Useful Contacts

Schools Police Liaison Officer

Non-emergency Police response (24 hours) - 101

7.1 Other Agencies

National Drugs Helpline - 0800 776 600

This helpline will provide advice and guidance to anybody. It will provide access and contact with local agencies that can help with nearly every contingency.