

Sandy Upper School **Policy for Responding to Drug Related Incidents**

Rationale

We are committed to establishing a drug free learning environment.

Response to Drug Related Incidents

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary, in line with LA and National Guidance. We will inform parents at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the child. Our focus will always be on the student, not on the drug. However in responding to any situation, we seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school and the extended community. In medical emergencies, staff will follow the First Aid guidelines for dealing with Drug Incidents and complete the LA Incident/Accident Report forms.

On receiving reports of a drugs related incident:-

1. We will administer first aid where necessary. Where a student appears to be under the influence of drugs, parents will be contacted to collect their child, unless a qualified first aider considers that the child requires emergency medical treatment in which case an ambulance will be called and the parents informed.
2. We will determine the precise nature of the incident and involvement of students as quickly as possible before deciding on a response.
3. We will interview any student suspected of being in possession of drugs or dealing drugs immediately, with their belongings (Year Leader and the Deputy Head or Head Teacher). A request will be made to handover any drugs and/or for their bags to be searched. If this is declined, the student may be supervised until a police officer can be present to carry out a search.
4. Where a student is found to be in possession of illegal drugs, or items we suspect or believe are such, then these will be confiscated by the Headteacher. The police will be contacted and the drugs passed to them.
5. Where a student under the age of 18 is found in possession of legal drugs e.g. cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, these will be confiscated and given to the parent or disposed of.
6. A thorough investigation will be carried out and a decision made with regard to the student receiving a fixed term or permanent exclusion. Where students are able to do so, a full statement of their involvement will be taken to include the names of any other students who may have had access to the drug. This statement should be named, dated and signed by both the student and the adult present. Where students are reluctant to name other students we will remind them of the risk to their health and safety if we do not have a chance to see them
7. Parents will be provided with information about relevant support agencies
8. When a student returns to the school after a fixed term exclusion, support from appropriate agencies will be offered

Reporting to the Police

Wherever possible, the police school liaison officer will be contacted to respond to the report of a drug incident at school. They will advise the school on the handling and storage of substances found on school premises. If police attendance is delayed, the substance will be secured in the school safe in the presence of a witness until the police arrive. If the

call is urgent and the police school liaison officer is unavailable, a call will be made to the police service.

Ultimately, the investigation of offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is a police responsibility

This range of possible actions is available to the police:-

- Provide advice/support;
- Seize and preserve the substance as evidence;
- Search the individual(s) and/or the school;
- Question anyone suspected of committing an offence or of being a potential witness;
- Deal appropriately with anyone suspected of committing an offence, which may include arrest.

(Bedfordshire Police aims to deal sensitively with all incidents, in consultation with the Headteacher and in full compliance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, in relation to the involvement of parents or appropriate adults).

For further information, please contact the Police Liaison officer or the Community Action Department (Bedfordshire Police Headquarters, Woburn Road, Bedford MK43 9AX Tel: 01234 842803)

Sanctions

Where the weight of evidence is clear, we are unequivocal in our response:-

1. If a student is found in possession of drugs, and/or selling cigarettes or alcohol, they will at the least face a fixed term exclusion.
2. If a student is found to be dealing illegal drugs they will be permanently excluded from the school.

First implemented Oct 2008				
Review & Evaluation	Rewritten Revised	Staff Responsible	Governor Committee	Review Cycle
		DS/AT	Business	Annual
	Mar 2011	DS/AT	Standards	Annual