



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

## **School Improvement Committee**

### **Substance Abuse Policy**

**January 2017**

**Review Date: June 2022**

**Company No. 07560175**

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY  
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk  
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

Founder Patron: Earl Mountbatten of Burma Executive Headteacher: Heather McIlroy Patron: The Honourable Alexandra Knatchbull

This policy has been developed with the involvement of teaching staff, Governors, the School Council and Hampshire Constabulary. It draws on the most recent guidance from the DFES booklet *Drugs: Guidance for Schools* (issued February 2004) and the current Government Drug Strategy 2010 *Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery*.

A copy of the policy has been circulated to all teaching staff at the school. The policy was adopted on 10 January 2012 and will be reviewed every four years, or as required with any changes in legislation or DFE guidance. The policy and Drugs Education will be reviewed through the School Improvement Committee.

The policy connects with the school policies for Personal Development.

The purpose of the policy is to set out how the school will educate staff and students of the negative effects that drugs can have on peoples' lives, to support students when appropriate and to deal with any issues of drugs possession within the school.

### **The School's stance towards drugs**

This school condones neither the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco nor the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.

This 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 encourage students to make informed decisions in order to promote a healthy lifestyle.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Drugs**

In this policy the term 'drug' is used to include:

- (i) illegal substances
- (ii) substances which are legal but can be misused

- Some of these substances would not be acceptable for possession and use by students on school premises, e.g. alcohol and tobacco.
- Other substances, for example, glue, solvents and over-the-counter medicines, would be acceptable for possession and use on school premises, provided this is for their proper, intended purpose.

#### **In School**

'In school' is taken to mean on school premises, including buildings and grounds. This can extend beyond the school gates when a student is wearing school uniform or travelling on the school bus. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips, including those abroad. The policy relates to students' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day. The policy also covers use of the school's facilities and grounds by the community, including students, out of school hours.

The policy also relates to possession of illegal drugs by parents/carers and any visitors to the school.

## **Drugs Education**

Education about drugs is an integral part of the Personal Social Health and Careers Education (PSHCE) programme in school.

The programme aims:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills;
- to provide accurate information about substances;
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use;
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS;
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Emphasis is placed on developing interpersonal skills in order to equip young people to deal with challenging situations throughout life.

Year assemblies are run for drugs awareness/education, and this includes presentations from agencies such as HM Prison Service.

The teaching of drug education will be monitored and assessed by the teacher in charge of PSHCE in conjunction with their line manager. The Assistant Headteacher (Student Services) will give guidance on the delivery of drug education.

### **Staff support and training**

There will be on-going CPD for all staff. This might include basic drug awareness, safe disposal of drug related paraphernalia, drug education training for teachers and specific training on supporting young people with drug related problems for staff with a pastoral responsibility. Professional development may take a variety of forms such as:

- Training courses
- Shadowing or co-teaching with other members of staff
- Visiting other schools.

### **Management of Drugs in School (including police involvement)**

- If a student is found in possession of drugs (including legal drugs) at school, the parents will always be informed
- If a student is found in possession of a substance suspected of being illegal the school will inform the police
- A member of staff, directed by SLT, may search a student's locker, or school bag, or other school property where (s)he has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs. There should be a witness present and a receipt given for any item removed

- Where students are suspected of concealing drugs they will be encouraged to produce these voluntarily. If a student refuses, the police will be called in to deal with the situation
- Any suspected illegal drugs can be lawfully seized by staff and retained in locked storage pending the arrival of police. Staff seizing suspected drugs should avoid any skin contact with the drugs if possible, and preserve any relevant packaging
- Any parent/carer suspected to be in under the influence of drugs may be asked to leave school premises
- Any member of staff found in possession of suspected illegal drugs will be dealt with through this policy and any relevant internal discipline policy, and national policy relating to professional standards. This will be dealt with by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Sanctions and Support**

In dealing with a child involved with drugs the school has to consider the good of the whole community as well as that of the individual.

Individual incidents will be dealt with according to the circumstances involved. Sanctions will be designed to ensure the student's continued education and support for his/her wellbeing. **An initial drug-related offence (other than supplying or intending to supply) may be a fixed term or permanent exclusion. A subsequent drug-related offence will lead to a permanent exclusion.** Students will be offered appropriate counselling and support as available within the school and parents may be offered contacts with agencies who offer support to young people overcoming drug related problems. The school child protection procedures may be invoked if there is significant concern for a child's safety.

When all other reasonable steps have been taken, or depending on the gravity of the situation, it may prove necessary to exclude the child from school, and in extreme cases to make a permanent exclusion as the final sanction.

Any person selling/supplying illegal substances or intending to sell/supply illegal substances on the school campus will be permanently excluded from the school. The school will support the police in any resulting prosecution.

Furthermore, the school will not be available for managed moves, or 'Day 6 Provision', for students from other schools who have been excluded for drug related incidents.

### **Drugs support**

There are a number of external websites or organisations that can help anyone who needs help with a drugs problem. Some of these include;

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

<http://www.catch-22.org.uk>

These are publicised at the school on notice boards and through the school website.

### **Review and oversight of Substance Abuse Policy**

The Assistant Headteacher (Student Services) has the responsibility to oversee and co-ordinate drug issues for the school. This will include relevant contact with other schools in the local area.

**Policy Agreed**

Signed: Cheryl Parish

Date: January 2017

Chair of School Improvement Committee

Signed: Jill Hall

Date: January 2017

Chair of Governors