

## **Substance Abuse Policy**

Our first concern in managing substance abuse is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils. Edgbaston High School for Girls is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well being. It will not tolerate the possession, use or supply of dangerous or illegal substances in a school context. Any pupil who possesses or uses any illegal substance while under the jurisdiction of the school will be excluded. The length of the exclusion will be at the discretion of the Headmistress.

### **Definition of Terminology**

For the purpose of this policy the term 'substance' includes: drugs, volatile substances, alcohol and tobacco.

### **Statement of Policy**

- Alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, volatile substances and illegal drugs are forbidden on School premises.
- The School is committed to a comprehensive education programme in respect of substance abuse.
- 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 promote an awareness of the consequences of abuse of substances.

### **Aims of the Policy**

- To provide a statement in respect of our educational aims and School ethos in relation to Drugs Education.
- To identify our provision for Drugs Education both within our Curriculum and beyond.
- To provide a procedure for dealing with cases of substance abuse and to provide essential guidelines for Staff.

### **Educational Aims**

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and abuse:

- to provide accurate information about substances;
- to enable pupils to make informed choices by increasing knowledge and developing and practising skills; to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse;
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS;

- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face; and
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- to put in place support for pupils who may have family problems related to substance abuse.

These aims are fulfilled through the Science Curriculum, PSHEE and through extra-curricular opportunities.

## **Drugs Education: School Organisation for the Delivery of Drugs Education through the Curriculum**

### **Organisation of the Programme:**

The delivery of Drugs Education is primarily done through PSHEE lessons which are usually taught by Form Tutors on a weekly basis. The programme promotes health and well being but also focuses on issues such as peer pressure and raising pupils' self esteem. In Senior School, the programme is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHEE in conjunction with Heads of Year and the Deputy Head Pastoral. In the Preparatory School, it is co-ordinated across year groups and monitored by the Head of PSHEE, Mindfulness and Study Skills, Deputy and Head of Preparatory School.

In addition, guest speakers are invited into school to speak to individual year groups.

### **Key Stage 2 PSHEE**

- To understand the effects of smoking.
- To develop understanding of other poisons and toxins that can harm the body.
- To understand the difference between medicine and drugs (illegal).

### **Key Stage 3 PSHEE**

- Smoking                      Its dangers and the reasons people smoke
- Alcohol                      Its effects on the body, the reasons why people drink and the role of the Media
- Drugs                         Information about types of drugs and their effects on the body; why people take drugs
- Drugs and the Law        The relationship between substance misuse and anti-social behaviour

### **Key Stage 3 Science**

- The biological effects of tobacco on our bodies

### **Key Stage 4 PSHEE**

- Smoking                      Its dangers on the body and personal image
- Alcohol                      Its dangers in society related to behaviour and sexual behaviour
- Developing Personal Strategies to improve self esteem and decision-making skills in relation to smoking, alcohol and drugs

### **Key Stage 4 Science**

- The effects of smoking and alcohol on unborn babies.
- The effects of diet, smoking and exercise on cardiovascular disease.
- The effect of alcohol on the liver and brain function.
- The effect of smoking on lung disease and lung cancer.

## **Procedure for Dealing with Cases of Suspected Substance Abuse**

1. The School will consider each incident individually. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil(s) involved, the other members of the School and the local community. In the interests of the School as a whole, the permanent exclusion of the pupil(s) concerned may be an appropriate response.
2. Parents of the pupil(s) involved will be informed at the earliest opportunity.
3. While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, EHS will not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the preparation, production or supply of illegal substances. In these and other appropriate circumstances, the School reserves the right to involve the police and to provide them with all the necessary support and assistance.
4. The School reserves the right to search a girl's locker and bags in the presence of the pupil and two members of Staff.

## **Guidance for Staff**

### **Management of Drug Related Incidents**

A drug related incident is any incident involving a chemical substance which is used for physiological or psychological effects.

Signs and symptoms which may indicate that a drug related incident has taken place might include:

- changed behaviour by pupils in school
- a smell of tobacco, alcohol or solvents
- erratic mood swings, e.g. unusual irritability or aggression
- loss of interest in work, activities or friends
- changes in attendance patterns

Response to a drug related incident will depend on the nature of the substance being used. Procedures to be followed are as indicated below.

### **Interviewing Pupils in Relation to Drug Related Matters**

If you suspect that a girl is using drugs or is in possession of them, a written report should be made as soon as possible. This should be as specific as possible and must include times, dates and actions taken.

A pupil must never be interviewed on her own. Parents will be contacted to come into school and they or another designated adult must be present at an interview.

Usually pupils will be interviewed by either the Headmistress or the Deputy Head Pastoral in the presence of another member of staff.

### **Smoking:**

The school is a non-smoking site and therefore smoking in any part of the building or grounds will not be tolerated. Smoking will result in immediate exclusion of the pupil concerned for a length of time to be determined by the Headmistress.

**Alcohol:**

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil may have consumed or is under the influence of alcohol, they should contact the Deputy Head Pastoral. She will then contact the School Nurse and the pupil will be placed in the medical room under supervision. Parents will be asked to come into school to collect their daughter and take her home. A subsequent meeting will then take place between parents, the pupil and the Headmistress and a period of exclusion will follow. This period of time will be at the discretion of the Headmistress.

**Prescribed Drugs:**

In the Preparatory School pupils needing to take medication in the school day must take their medicine and a letter from parents explaining what the medicine is, what it is used for and directions for administration to the School Nurse. The medicine will then be stored appropriately by the School Nurse either in a secure cabinet or fridge.

**Illegal substances such as illegal drugs or volatile substances:**

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil may have drugs in school or is under the influence of drugs, they should report this immediately to the Headmistress or Deputy Head Pastoral. Procedures as outlined for the Management of Drug Related Events will then be put into action.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Headmistress takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and for the training and support of all staff involved in its implementation. The Heads of PSHEE and the Deputy Head Pastoral will have responsibility for the daily implementation of the educational aims of the policy.

**Related Policies:**

Behaviour Policy  
Rewards and Sanctions Policy  
Exclusion Policy  
Safeguarding Policy