



Policy on Illegal Drugs, Legal Highs, Solvent Misuse and Drugs Education

Ruskin High School is committed to providing an atmosphere where children feel physically safe and emotionally secure and which will enable students to develop their aptitudes and potential to the full.

The school believes that the use and misuse of drugs undermines the well being and educational progress of students.

The school is committed to:

1. Preventing the supply and use of illegal drugs, legal highs and solvents on the school site and/or during any school activity on or off site.
2. Raising awareness of drug misuse and its consequences through PSHCE.
3. Working with other institutions and agencies to help our approach to the problem.
4. Providing accurate information about substances to enable students to make healthy informed choices.

Procedures

1. Possession of, using or being under the influence of illegal drugs, including legal highs, solvents and alcohol on the school premises or a school based activity will result in parents immediately informed.
2. A student who is involved in selling or supplying drugs to other students will receive an exclusion with a view to permanent exclusion.
3. The school will consider each drugs related incident individually and consider the action it may take carefully in relation to the student(s) involved, other members of the school and the community. The decision to involve the police will be at the school's discretion.

Educational Programme

The school will develop a variety of programmes of study to help students make informed decisions and enable staff to provide support. The programmes will take place in PSHCE and Science and be reinforced in other areas of the curriculum.

Support and Guidance for Students

1. Do not bring illegal drugs or solvents onto the school site. This includes alcohol as students are under age for purchasing.

2. Do ask for help and support if you are worried about the effects of drug abuse either for yourself or a friend. Take care of yourselves and take care of each other. Having the responsibility of knowing and doing nothing may be hard to take later.
3. Do tell a member of staff if you know or suspect that drugs are being brought onto the school site or that students are being involved in deals concerning drugs. You are not betraying other students. Drugs put everyone at risk as they may encourage drug abuse amongst those who may not be able to cope, mentally or physically and lead some students to crime or debt.

The school is aware that students are going to come into contact, in the being successfully achieved. community, with people who use drugs. It feels that the use of illegal drugs, legal highs and solvents prevents the aims of the school on safety, security and achievement Therefore, it will not tolerate the existence of illegal drugs, legal highs or solvents on the school premises or school related activities, nor the supplying of them. However, the school will support students who request help on any drugs related problems, either solely or with the help of outside agencies.

Support and Guidance for Staff

1. The Head teacher will take overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy. All staff must inform the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher if they have knowledge or suspicions over the supply, possession or the use of illegal drugs, legal highs and solvents.
2. The school recognizes that the misuse of drugs by young people is a community issue and to help deal with problems more effectively may involve working with other agencies such as police, parents, the school nurse and local drug action teams.
3. The school will provide support to individual students and a request for help will not result in disciplinary procedure. The school may want to involve other agencies in this support and must inform students of what guidance and support can be given by the school and what it knows to be available through outside agencies.
4. Staff must try to respond positively and appropriately to requests for help from students and inform the Headteacher in order to agree on a support strategy for staff and students.