



## Hackney New School

### School Drugs Policy

Hackney New School is situated in Central London. It would be surprising, given its geographical location, if Hackney New School was immune from the trade in illegal drugs which is so much a feature of all cities. It would be irresponsible of Hackney New School not to be aware of the threats and dangers posed by the all too easy availability. Of equal concern is the impact and effect of socially acceptable drugs such as tobacco and alcohol on its students. With this in mind, the School Drugs Policy has been formulated.

#### **Drugs:**

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act 1971, it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (e.g. possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). Solvents are dangerous substances as well. Under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1965, it is illegal for anyone to supply or offer to supply a substance if they know or believe that the substance being supplied will be inhaled by a person under 18 for the purpose of intoxication.

#### Aims:

- to ensure that Hackney New School is free from illegal drugs (and solvents);
- to educate students on the effects of drugs (and solvents) on the mind and body;
- to provide opportunities for students to practice the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs
- to promote the individual's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth;
- to explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs;
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;
- to enable parents to acquire knowledge and support.

Any pupil involved in illegal drugs when he/she is under the School's responsibility should expect to be permanently excluded from school and the police informed. Being under the School's responsibility means:

- throughout the School day, whether on or off the premises;
- whenever he/she is involved in any activity organised by the School;

- whenever he/she is identifiable as a member of the School;

In addition, where it has been brought to the attention of the Headteacher that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the school reserves the right to permanently exclude him/her.

### **Tobacco:**

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society. The school policy on smoking aims to give students the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike, that non-smoking represents the norm in society and that it receives support from the School and staff. Recent legislation has made it an offence for children under 18 years to be sold tobacco products.

#### Aims:

- to ensure that cigarette smoking is not tolerated at Hackney New School;
- to educate students as to the immediate dangers of smoking;
- to encourage those students who do smoke out of school to break free from the habit.

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco, is prohibited when a student is under the School's responsibility. The school's policy on drugs defines when a student is under the School's authority.

Students found smoking or in possession of cigarettes or tobacco can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate punishment administered which will include an SLT detention and smoking awareness counselling. 'Electronic cigarettes' are also prohibited and will be confiscated together with an SLT detention. Subsequent offences may result in fixed term exclusion. For a persistent offender the Headteacher reserves the right to review the student's membership of the School community.

Hackney New School is a non-smoking school. Smoking is not allowed on the premises anywhere by anyone. Visitors and contractors will be made aware of this. A non-smoking environment is not only a healthier environment; it is also a safer environment, reducing the risk of fire.

### **Alcohol:**

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents arises. The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

Aims:

- to develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body;
- to encourage sensible, appropriate and safe drinking behaviour;
- to practice personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present;
- to educate the students as to the place of alcohol in the political, social and economic environment in which it exists.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited:

- in school buildings or grounds (exception sixth form formal occasions sanctioned by the Headteacher)
- when under the responsibility of the school, in licenced premises and whenever prohibited by law;
- whilst on school outings and trips (exception sixth form formal occasions sanctioned by the Headteacher)

Students found in possession of alcohol or using it, whilst under the responsibility of the School (as outlined in the policy on drugs) can expect to be given a fixed term exclusion.

### **Support for parents:**

From time to time the school will arrange sessions in which information about illegal drugs and their use will be presented, as well as on tobacco and alcohol. These sessions will be related to the ages of the student year groups.

Hackney New School work with Place2Be and other outside agencies to give families the support they need to help them combat drug abuse and support their children.

### **Educational programme:**

Hackney New School has a pro-active policy concerning the use of illegal drugs and substances, alcohol and tobacco. This is expressed in assemblies, form periods, science lessons and PSHE lessons.

In science lessons the School follows the National Curriculum Science Order concerning Drug Education. This is as follows:

Key Stage 3

- How smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- How abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affect health

## Key Stage 4

- The effects of solvents, alcohol and tobacco on the body and functions

In PSHE sessions, form periods and assemblies, the following issues are addressed:

## Key Stage 3

- Recognising personal responsibility for decisions about substance use
- Knowledge about the basic facts concerning substances including their effects and relevant legislation
- Awareness of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance abuse
- The development of appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance abuse occurs

## Key Stage 4

- Understanding that Britain is a drug-using society and recognising different patterns of use and their effect
- Recognising the impact of peer-group pressure on drug habits
- Individuals are responsible for the choices they make about drug use
- Being able to analyse safe levels of intake; e.g. tobacco is never safe, limited use of alcohol may be safe
- Discussing the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs, particularly smoking and alcohol

## **Possession of an illegal drug**

If any student is found in possession of a suspicious substance, it will be taken from him/her. The substance will then be taken immediately to the Assistant Head. The Headteacher will be informed straightaway. The Headteacher will inform the Chair of the Governing Body. The student will then be interviewed by the Deputy Head. The police will be consulted concerning the nature of the substance. If it is an illegal drug, the student will be isolated immediately and his/her parents/carers called to the school. The Headteacher will speak with them and the student can expect to be given a fixed term exclusion, in the first instance. The amount and type of drug will determine whether the student is permanently excluded. The illegal drug will be handed over to the police who may prosecute the pupil.

The school will be in contact with our working partners such as Place2Be, to ensure support is given to the student and their family.

## **Drug Testing**

Where there is concern about a student regarding the misuse of drugs, it is possible, with the consent of the relevant students and parents, for drug testing to take place.

## **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Lesley Falconer

Executive Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead

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