

THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Drugs Policy

Vision Statement

We, the staff and governors, aspire to ensure that all our students, irrespective of ability and regardless of anyone's doubts, achieve their potential in full; and we aspire in this way to make Thomas Mills High School the best in the country.

1.Introduction

1.1 This policy is written in conjunction with guidance from the Department for Education and the Association of Police Officers. The policy should also be read alongside the Safeguarding Policy and the Behaviour Policy.

1.2 Any response to drugs-related incidents need to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community.

2.Key Points

2.1 Drugs Education is an important component of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and assemblies with external speakers.

2.2 The Behaviour Policy makes clear the school's stance on illegal drugs and substances and the likely consequences. Illegal substances have no place at Thomas Mills High School.

2.3 The school is mindful that pupils affected by drugs should have early access to support from local services.

3.Definitions

3.1 Drugs have been defined as a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. All drugs have the potential to cause harm and increase risk.

3.2 The term 'drug' can cover medicines, alcohol, tobacco, psychoactive substances, volatile substances, illegal drugs and other unauthorized substances.

4.Incidents

4.1 This can include any of the following:

- Suspicions of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding of drugs or related paraphernalia
- Use of drugs on school premises or close by and whilst travelling to, or representing the school
- Supply of drugs on school premises or close by and whilst travelling to, or representing the school

- Possession of drugs
- Rumours and/or reports of drug possession, supply or use

4.2 Any of the above should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff which will usually be the Headteacher.

5.Response

5.1 The senior member of staff will agree an action plan with relevant members of staff. This could include an investigation as well as referrals to the statutory authorities probably through the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF).

5.2 It maybe that the incident may need to be dealt with as a medical emergency in the first instance.

5.3 The Behaviour Policy makes it clear that the use or supply of drugs by pupils will result in permanent exclusion.

5.4 Allegations against staff would be dealt with through the Staff Disciplinary Policy and Staff Code of Conduct.

6.Drugs Education and Awareness

6.1 This is the responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher. He works closely with the pastoral teams and is available as a source of advice. He is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

7.Support

7.1 Support is available through the pastoral teams and also the School Nurse. Other sources of support such as 'Talk to Frank' or 'Turning Point' can also be signposted. Support is very important when parents/ carers or other family members misuse drugs.

7.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess if any student is at risk.

8.The role of schools

8.1 Statutory duties support schools in promoting pupils' wellbeing and preventing drug misuse. Schools have powers of search and confiscation. The school works in close partnership with other agencies including the Police.

8.2 The school's education on drugs and the Behaviour Policy play an important part in prevention. Because of the risk of drugs on the school site, the school may, from time to time, choose to make use of drugs dogs both during the school day or at other times when pupils may not be ordinarily present.

9.Training and Information

9.1 It is important that all staff have training that is appropriate to their role. All staff undertake appropriate Safeguarding induction and training.

9.2 Staff meetings and briefings are another source of disseminating information including relevant terminology. This includes child criminal exploitation and county lines.

9.3 The school will, from time to time, communicate with parents with relevant information. The school will also, when appropriate, arrange presentations.

9.4 The school is receptive to any information from parents and the response will link to the information and issue identified. All rumours and reports are taken seriously and investigated and, where appropriate, shared with other agencies.

10.Review

10.1 In line with all policies, governors will review the Drugs Policy annually. However, the school is mindful of contextual safeguarding and will also respond quickly to changes in statutory guidance.