

KJHS

MISUSE OF SUBSTANCES



MISSION: "Working together for excellence within a caring community"

INTRODUCTION

The caring community within Killicomaine JHS (KJHS) is committed to the safety and well-being of its pupils and therefore, aims to discourage the misuse and illegal possession or supply of harmful substances. KJHS aims to provide a preventative approach through including Drug Education as part of our Personal Development Programme.

The term, 'drugs', in this policy is understood to include tobacco, E-Cigarettes, alcohol and other substances which are regarded as legal like 'over the counter' medicines, volatile substances e.g. glues and solvents, and illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, LSD and Ecstasy, etc. Alcohol and Drugs continue to be accessible to pupils of all ages and may be used by young people in our catchment area.

AIMS

1. Prevent

- To provide pupils with the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the use and misuse of drugs.
- To help pupils understand the dangers and effects of drugs abuse on themselves and others.
- Align with the preventative education provision within school.

2. Inform

- To help pupils make informed and responsible decisions about the use of drugs and develop skills to withstand pressure from peers and others.
- To provide information and guide-lines for teachers to deliver a drug education programme and in the event of an incident for due procedures to be followed.

3. Support

- To enable pupils to identify sources of guidance and support as appropriate.
- To provide appropriate support and assistance for those students affected by drug related issues.

4. Communicate

- To communicate with parents/carers where the school feel there is a reasonable suspicion that a pupil may be at risk from taking drugs or are in the company of those who are doing, or are under suspicion of doing so.
- Where appropriate, communicate with outside agencies, for example the Community & Schools Involvement Officer (PSNI).

THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Drug Education is taught in

- a) Personal Development Programme within LLW in Years 8 and 9.
- b) Science – Year 10
- c) Enrichment Programme. Themes covered include:
 - i. Classification
 - ii. Medical/legal effects
 - iii. Decision making
 - iv. Access
 - v. Consequences
 - vi. Support agencies

The learning out-comes aim to enable pupils to have accurate and up-to-date information on drugs and their effects on health; develop skills and behaviours to make informed decisions; identify and cope with pressures and malign influences; make responsible choices within the context of a healthy life-style.

The Designated teacher for Drugs will

Ensure that all staff have access to a copy of this policy and will review it as necessary.

Oversee and co-ordinate the curricular provision in compliance with statutory requirements and liaise with other staff in delivering the Drug Education Programme.

Act as the school's contact person for outside agencies and work in partnership with representatives of the local community in a protective and preventative manner.

Co-ordinate the school's procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug abuse.

Co-ordinate the training of staff in the said procedures and in the recognition of signs of drug abuse – absences, physical signs etc.

Liaise with the Designated Teacher where cases require sensitive approach and there are concerns re: the sharing of information.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUSPECTED INCIDENTS OF DRUG MISUSE

In the event of an incident occurring, staff will assess the situation, ensure the safety of the pupil[s] and carry out the steps outlined in Appendix A. In addition, parents/guardians will be immediately notified as will the Board of Governors and the Community & Schools Involvement Officer (PSNI) in order to aid any further investigations.

‘The principal will have responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking account of factors such as the age of the pupil concerned, whether the incident involved one pupil or a group of pupils, whether there has been evidence of particular peer group pressure and whether this is a first offence.’ DENI Circular No: 2004/9. Thus, the response will include a pastoral approach in addition to appropriate sanctioning procedures.

The policy in these matters is to proceed with discretion and sensitivity bearing in mind the need to protect the rights of the pupil concerned, their families and the school. However, it will be made clear to pupils that no guarantee of confidentiality can be offered if he/she discloses that he/she is taking drugs. Due to the seriousness of substance misuse, any incidences/knowledge must be reported to the Designated Teacher who will ensure that proper action is taken to protect that pupil.

Pupil under Influence

Ensure immediate safety of pupil and others, and administer first aid if and when necessary. The Designated Teacher/Principal should then be informed, followed by parents. At this stage both the CSIO and the EWO should be informed.

Pupil Suspected/Known to be in Possession of a Substance

Pupil will be asked to surrender the substance at which point it will be placed under lock and key until collected by CSIO. Upon refusal to comply, the pupil will be escorted to the Designated Teacher/Principal who will make a further request. Upon refusal by the pupil to accompany a responsible adult to the Designated Teacher/Principal, the Principal will be sent for while the adult remains in close proximity to the pupil. *The parent will also be asked to come into school immediately.*

Pupil Dealing

Designated Teacher/Principal should be informed immediately at which point the CSIO will be contacted.

Media

The Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media.

RECORDING AND REFERRAL

All drug related incidents will be recorded and stored on SIMS. Where the incident involves sensitive information or information of a child protection nature, the information will be recorded by the Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher.

SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL

The school has several qualified First Aiders (Mrs J Murphy, Mrs W Radcliffe, Mr N Forbes, Mrs Litter) who are known to all staff and are easily accessible.

All substances and associated paraphernalia will be collected, stored under lock and key and delivered to the CSIO from the PSNI.

Procedures are in place to communicate with parents regarding the safe storage and administration of prescribed and over-the-counter medication during school hours.

This policy will be evaluated and amended on an on-going basis.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

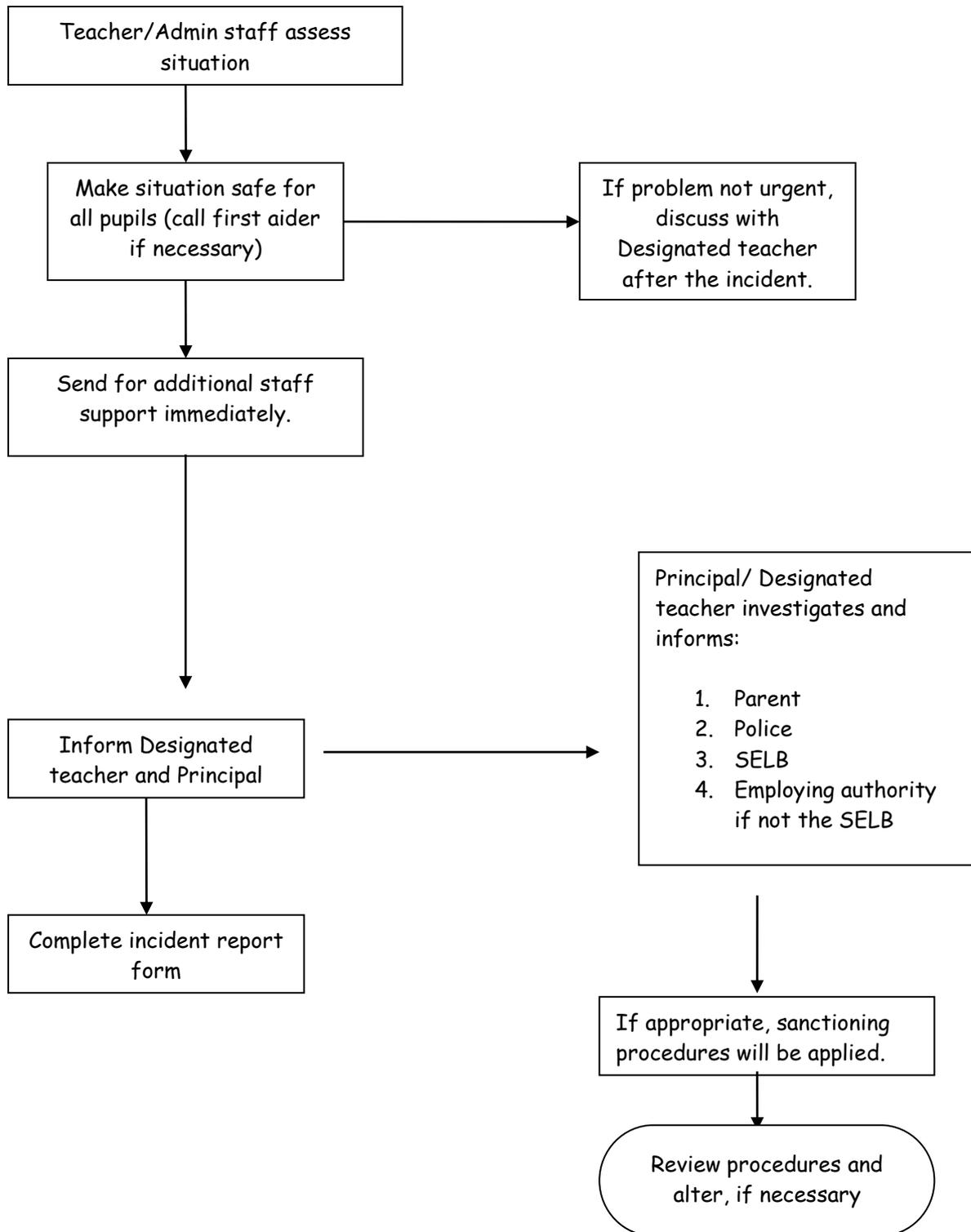
Year 8/9

1. Pupils will be made aware of school rules, relating to alcohol, tobacco, E-Cigarettes, solvents and illegal drugs.
2. Information about legal drugs (including prescribed and over-the-counter medicines) their effects and associated health risks.
3. They will be made aware of advice and support locally and national help-lines and organisations.
4. They will identify pressures and influences and develop coping strategies.
5. Scientific terminology including the following words: use, misuse, abuse, addiction, toleration, dependence, overdose, withdrawal and adulteration.
6. The effects of different levels of intake of alcohol.
7. They will investigate peer pressures and associated decision making.

Year 10

1. Information about illegal drugs including misused prescribed and over-the-counter medicines, their effects and associated health risks. (Biology Year 10)
2. Different categories of drugs, including stimulants, depressants, analgesics and hallucinogens. Enrichment week/Biology (Year 10)
3. The law relating to drugs. Enrichment week/Biology (Year 10)
4. General Science (10C)
5. Outside support is brought in during a year 10 Enrichment Week.
 - During this week Year 10 pupils may attend seminars by
 - a) PSNI
 - b) Action Cancer
 - c) Local reformed addicts now working for local charities
 - d) Other

APPENDIX A



PARENTS who require further information or clarification of any of the content of this policy should contact school (028 3833 2021) and ask for the Vice-Principal (Pastoral Care)

APPENDIX B

Helpful Numbers

SELB - 028 3751 2200

Community & Schools Involvement Officer (PSNI) - 028 3833 2424

Southern HSSB Area - 028 3752 0500

Southern DACT (Drug & Alcohol Co-ordination Team) - 028 4066 0926

Crimestoppers - 080 0555 111

Breakthru Project - 028 8775 3228

Smokebusters - 028 9066 3281

Contact Youth - YOUTHLINE - 0808 808 8000

National Drugs Helpline (Frank) - 0800 776 600

In House

Education Welfare Officer (EWO) - 028 3832 6801

School Counsellors

Child Protection – Mrs J Murphy