



## Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "G. M. L.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Date of Signature: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dated: February 2021

Review Date: February 2022

# Ebor Academy Filey Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

## **RATIONALE**

- Ebor Academy Filey is committed to promoting the health, safety and welfare of all members of its community, and recognises the potential harm that the misuse of drugs (see definition of drug below) may cause. There is no place for drugs in Ebor Academy Filey.

## **OVERALL PURPOSE**

- To seek to protect the School community from the dangers of drug misuse through education and guidance, and by the appropriate management of drug-related incidents in School.

## **AIMS**

- To provide drugs education which helps individuals to make health choices about their lifestyles by increasing their understanding of the implications of drug use and misuse. Examples of how this is done, such as in PSHE - talks from speakers.
- To enable individuals to identify sources of appropriate personal support when confronted by issues involving drugs – School staff (especially Form Tutors, Inclusion Team), police officers, GPs and appropriate support agencies.
- To keep the School free from drugs.
- To work collaboratively with parents and outside agencies in the implementation of this policy.
- To ensure that the School's practices meet legal requirements and take account of Department for Education and Local Authority's guidance about drugs.

## **PRINCIPLES**

This policy will be implemented in a way that:

- recognises the well-being of our young people as paramount;
- strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of individuals and the wider School community;
- is consistent with the School's overall aims and ethos.

## **GUIDELINES ON IMPLEMENTATION**

### **A) DEFINITION and TERMINOLOGY**

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, alkyl nitrites (poppers) and novel psychoactive substances (illegal highs).
- All over the counter and prescription medicines (misuse of).
- All illegal highs.
- E-cigarettes, vaporisers.

### **Illegal Highs**

(Further information can be found at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)).

'Illegal Highs' are substances which produce the same, or similar effects, to drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy, but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. They are however, considered illegal under current medicines legislation to sell, supply or advertise for "human consumption". To get round this sellers refer to them as research chemicals, plant food, bath crystals or pond cleaner.

In many cases 'illegal highs' have been designed to mimic Class A drugs, but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

### **Tobacco – Smoke Free Schools**

**The minimum age for buying cigarettes is 18 and schools are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises. Tobacco products found on a student under the age of 16 will be destroyed. Tobacco products found on students over 16 will have to be collected by a parent/carer.**

**The school is a smoke-free site and this prohibits the use of e-cigarettes and vaporisers as well as traditional tobacco products**

**Children, young people, staff, parents/carers and governors have been involved in the development and implementation of a smoke-free site.**

**The school can refer students to the School Nurse Services which can provide information and support for smokers to quit e.g. promoting access to smoking cessation classes.**

## **B) PRESCRIPTION AND OTHER MEDICINES**

- Students may bring prescription only medicines to School if they need to take them during the school day, on condition that the medications are prescribed to them, and suitably packaged and identifiable; they should be clearly labelled and handed in to Student Reception in the morning where they will be stored securely. Staff are not normally permitted to administer medicines to students, generally first aiders will assist students in taking their medication. In situations where it is necessary for a First Aider to administer a medication to a Student, parents will be required to discuss and agree this with the school in advance. Students with inhalers should keep these on their person at all times and will normally be permitted to use them as and when necessary.
- Non-prescription medication may be brought into school at the discretion of the school, and with parental consent. In such cases the medication should be clearly identifiable and labelled and controlled in accordance with the principles for prescription medicines.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION**

- Drugs Education can be clearly identified within the School's provision of Personal, Social, Health Education and appropriate attention is given to the need for continuity progression, balance and relevance. Adequate staff resources and development are provided to support drugs education. The School's drugs education programme will be reviewed annually, led by Mrs Pickering, the Stage Leaders who is responsible for PSHCE.

**MANAGING DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL:** This part of the policy covers unauthorised possession or supply of drugs as defined above

- These incidents are defined as the possession, use or supply of drugs by students in School or on educational visits. This includes paraphernalia relating to drug taking.
- All such incidents will be carefully investigated and written statements will be taken from students involved. The investigation will be led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.
- Any illegal drugs that are found in School will be secured on the School site and the police will be alerted to their existence immediately.
- Any other drug found in the school will be confiscated and secured on the School site, an assessment of the severity of the incident will be made by a senior leader at the school and appropriate action will be taken, which may include the involvement of the police.
- In all cases the safety and welfare of students is paramount, a trained first-aider will be involved wherever there is any danger to the health of a student, where necessary emergency medical treatment will be obtained.
- Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity if their child is involved in an investigation.
- The Education Act 1996 allows designated members of staff to search students for prohibited items, students will be invited to empty their bags and pockets for searching where the School has reasonable grounds to be suspicious. If a student refuses the invitation to empty their bags/pockets then the Headteacher may call the Police and parents/carers. Possession will be taken of any suspected substance. A search of a student's person is not permitted. Only a member of the Leadership Team should undertake the search of a student's bag, and there must always be two members of staff present.
- Where there is enough suspicion surrounding an individual(s), the Headteacher will allow that student's personal locker to be searched.
- **All incidents** where drugs have been found will be reported to the Police and action appropriate to the particular circumstances will be requested.
- The student's parents/carers will be informed that a search has taken place.
- The sanction imposed against students involved in drugs-related incidents will be determined in the light of the particular situation but all incidents carry the risk of permanent exclusion, even if it is a first offence, particularly where the incident involves the supply of a controlled or unauthorised drug to another student (whether for payment or otherwise).
- If the Headteacher has enough 'intelligence' the police will be invited into School and the School will support appropriate activities to detect and disrupt the misuse of drugs on school premises.
- The Chair of Governors will be informed.
- Students involved in drug-related incidents will be referred to external agencies who can offer specialist assistance.
- Compass Reach, through referral via the Early Help Service, is a county wide service staffed by qualified nurses that offers both psychosocial and clinical interventions to young people who are involved in risk taking behaviours relating to substance misuse (including alcohol), poor sexual health and emotional wellbeing and mental health.

## **Referral Procedure**

- Referrals can be made from any source directly to Compass Reach, providing that the young person is considered to be at medium or high risk of substance misuse, poor sexual health or teenage pregnancy using the Screening and Referral Tool.
  - Referrals can be made over the telephone, e-mailed or posted. Young people will be also able to self-refer via the free phone number or a local website/e-mail address.
  - Engagement with the Compass Reach North Yorkshire risky behaviour service is voluntary; therefore, referrals will only be accepted if the young person has given their prior consent.
  - Compass Reach contact all those referring a young person into the service to confirm receipt of referral and to discuss what will happen next.
  - Compass Reach will ask referrers to assist in completing the young person's comprehensive risk assessment and what involvement they have in the care of the young person.
  - Compass Reach will inform, update when necessary, and will refer back to the school at the point of discharge to ensure that appropriate aftercare services are in place.
- All members of staff will be vigilant for signs of drug misuse and will report any suspicions to a member of the Pastoral or Senior Leadership Team. If a young person appears to be under the influence of drugs then they should be referred to a first aider as "unwell". Staff should not say to the young person that they suspect they have been taking drugs since they do not have the medical training to make informed judgements.
  - The Senior Leadership Team and other staff involved will review the management of drug related incidents as appropriate.

## **RECORD KEEPING**

All drug related incidents and searches will be kept on the student's file and on CPOMs. Records of numbers of incidents will be kept centrally in the School for information and analysis of trends and reported to Governors annually within the Headteacher's Report.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be responsible for organising this review. After each review and approval by full governors the policy will be communicated to all students and parents. All new parents and in-year admissions will receive a copy of the policy. This policy forms part of the School's Behaviour policy and will be displayed on the school's website and printed for parents on request.

## **APPEAL**

Appeals against the operation or implementation of this policy may be made by students, parents of staff to the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors.

