CIRENCESTER KINGSHILL SCHOOL

SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

This policy includes the following specific aims and objectives:-

- To enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices.
- To provide a clear framework for all staff for dealing with incidents of substance* misuse in school.

*Substance is used to refer to solvents, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, legal highs and other drugs.

The school is a no smoking site. This includes a ban on the use of electronic cigarettes. It is not permitted to bring tobacco in any form or electronic cigarettes on to the school site. These will be automatically confiscated.

CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse and the effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on body functions.
- To understand the importance of feeling positive about oneself and others, and to be able to express feelings confidently.
- To develop responsible attitudes towards the use of drugs.
- To develop decision-making skills and know about factors which influence the process of making decisions, including choosing between alternatives and considering long and short-term consequences of decisions for one-self and others.
- To increase pupils' understanding of situations in which drugs may be used, both legally and illegally, and to develop skills for remaining in control in such situations.
- To help pupils appreciate ways in which they can control aspects of their own behaviour and resist peer pressure.
- To make pupils aware of the law relating to the use of drugs.
- To provide knowledge about how to use the helping agencies.

The pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of self-control, dignity and respect for themselves and others and helped to recognise the physical, emotional, and legal risks of substance abuse. Pupils should be able to understand the relationship between certain forms of substance abuse and other risks.

PROCEDURAL OBJECTIVES

- To set out clear procedures to be followed by staff who suspect that substance misuse is taking place or that controlled substances are being brought onto school premises.

- To provide an agreed framework for liaison with outside agencies including the police and press.

- To set out a clear statement of the disciplinary measures which will be applied to drugs related incidents.

- To set out the support and counselling which will be part of the response to drugs related offences in school.

- To ensure that all members of the school community understand the very serious view which the school takes of all instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs.

- To ensure that all staff are aware of the agreed procedures.

- To ensure that all staff involved in specific drugs education have an adequate level of training.

This policy has the theme that individuals who have a high level of self-esteem and who possess the necessary knowledge and skills to make thoughtful decisions about their behaviour will be best equipped to take their place in the adult world.

THE SCHOOL'S STANCE ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- The school does not condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

- The school is committed to the health and safety of all its members.

- The school will seek to educate pupils about the dangers connected with the misuse of substances.

- The school recognises that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse and will take a proactive stance on the matter believing that such Health Education is a vital element of the Personal and Social Economic Education of every pupil.

- Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents/carers by keeping them informed of any significant known or reported involvement of a pupil with illegal substances. Co-operation and communication between parents/carers, pupils and school is essential for the effective implementation of this policy.

- Whilst it is noted that the number of young people who misuse substances appears to be rising, it is important to recognise that the majority of young people choose not to do so. We need to continue to support the differing needs of young people on this issue.

- Staff in whom pupils confide need to consider their responsibilities carefully. They may need to warn pupils that certain information cannot be kept secret by a teacher (e.g. details of a pupil who may by supplying drugs to other pupils). However staff will want to be sensitive to the needs of individuals to speak and gain advice from adults they trust. In so doing pupils may confess to some drugs involvement. This information must be passed on to the relevant Head of Key Stage and **may** require referral to the Head depending on the seriousness of the involvement and its location. In all cases where drug misuse is known to have occurred on the school premises (or on a school

journey), or within close proximity of school immediately before or after school hours, the facts must be reported to the Head. Detailed procedures are set out below.

THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSE TO DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS

Cases involving substance misuse, possession or supply on the premises are considered to be very serious infringements of school regulations. **In all such cases the Head will discuss the matter with the Chair of Governors or the Vice Chair in his/her absence. Permanent exclusion may be considered as an appropriate response and will always occur if any pupil distributed, shared or sold drugs in a school context.** A pupil found to be in possession of an illegal drug on the school site would, in all likelihood, receive a minimum 15 day suspension. Unless there are exceptional circumstances parents/carers will be informed in any case where their child is involved in an incident of substance misuse.

Pupils and parents are advised that the use or possession of illegal drugs on the premises or close proximity will lead to an immediate suspension and could lead to permanent exclusion. Details can be found in the Substance Misuse Policy on the school's website. Pupils involved in serious drugs related incidents may, following a period of suspension, be readmitted to the school.

Each incident will be considered individually, and it is recognised that a variety of responses will be required to deal with different incidents.

RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS

No pupil may smoke on school premises, on journeys to and from school, within close proximity of school immediately before or after school hours or on school visits. If a pupil is known to be smoking excessively, this should be reported to the Head of Year who will inform the parents/carers and place a note on the pupil's record. If a pupil is recorded on camera smoking on the school site or just outside the gate, the Head of Year will follow the stages of action in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

In each of the following cases the incident to be reported in the first instance to the Head who will take the required action.

- If any pupil is found drunk on school premises, the parents/carers will be informed immediately and requested to remove the pupil.

- Alcohol, cigarettes, tobacco or vapes found on school premises will be confiscated. The parents/carers will be informed and given the opportunity to reclaim such items.

- If any pupil is found intoxicated through solvent abuse, urgent medical attention should be given (via the hospital) and the solvent will be confiscated.

Controlled drugs found on school premises or within close proximity of school will be confiscated and immediately handed over to the police.

A member of staff, having good reason for believing that a pupil may be in possession of an illegal substance, must call for the Head of Key Stage 3 or the Head of Key Stage 4 immediately. The Head of Key Stage will ask the pupil to empty his/her pockets or bag and could conduct a search of the pupil's locker. In the absence of either of the Heads of Key Stage the presence of another member of SLT will be requested. If the pupil refuses the matter will be referred to the Head who will repeat the request.

In the event of another refusal, the parents/carers should be contacted to obtain their permission. When there is good reason for pursuing this course of action, the police may be called,

If any pupil or any other person is found supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug the Headteacher must be informed immediately. She will inform the police, the Chair of Governors and the parents/carers.

Any equipment involved in drug misuse found on school premises will be disposed of with due regard to Health & Safety regulations. Needles and syringes, which present a considerable health hazard, must be handled with extreme care and stored in a suitable container until disposed of. Advice re. Disposal can be obtained from the Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Any member of staff involved in dealing with drugs related incidents must keep detailed written records. Dates and people involved must be accurately recorded.

DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The programme for drugs related education is partially cross-curricular but is drawn together by work in the PSHEE/Citizenship Programme. Staff under the direction of the Head of PSHEE deliver this programme. Assemblies are also used to reinforce the school's policy on substance abuse. The Governing Body and Headteacher will take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that, where "substances" education is given to any registered pupil at the school, it is provided in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to their health, the law, and responsibility to others.

LINKS WITH THE PARENTS/CARERS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of the helping agencies are available in school. These are brought to the pupils' attention at appropriate times during the health education programme.

Help and support for any pupil who is influenced by drug misuse in any way is provided through the pastoral systems in place within the school. Social Services will be informed if it is considered that the child may be at risk. (See Child Protection policy document.)

The Governing Body recommends that:

* The education provided across the curriculum and after school clubs encourages pupils to take part in social, physical and leisure activities which provide health options.

* Specific practical support should be included where possible in PSHEE courses to help pupils

    - deal with the pressures they will face in today's society
    - develop their self-esteem

  so as to enable them to make reasoned choices.

The facts re "substances" are presented by teachers in a responsible manner so as to enable pupils to comprehend the problems and harm that can be associated with the use of "substances".

* Pupils should be able to consider their own attitude and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt both while they are at school and adulthood.

* A specialised counsellor offering professional and confidential advice can be made available to pupils. (Refer to Assistant Heads, Head of KS3 and/or Head of KS4.)

If appropriate: you may want to read the following policies in conjunction with this policy. The Accessibility Plan, Anti-bullying Policy, School Discipline and Behaviour Policy, Child Protection Policy, Looked After Children Policy, Equality Policy, E-safety Policy, Exclusion Policy and the Offensive Weapons Policy.

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Reviewed by D Christopher January 2022 (Date)

Adopted by Governors _____(Sign) _____ (Date)

Review date January 2023