



Havelock Primary School and Nursery

Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy

As a Rights Respecting School we uphold the articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The following underpin this policy:

Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

POLICY AND SANCTIONS WITH REGARD TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Havelock School tolerates neither the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the School nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Havelock School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Havelock School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the School's general ethos; it will seek to provide the support pupils need to avoid the problems of substance abuse.

POLICY AIMS

Havelock School believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs and substance use and misuse:

1. To enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
2. To provide accurate information about substances.
3. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
4. To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
5. To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims are fulfilled through a programme of education arranged through the established curriculum, through the PSHE syllabus and through specially invited external speakers. The programme involves pupils of all ages and continues throughout their time at the school. Our Medical staff also play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved, and will offer informed medical advice.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries with their teacher or any other member of the staff. They can also refer themselves to the Medical Staff for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report. We also invite groups of parents and guardians to Information Events , and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the well-being of our pupils.

The School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the local Police, Social Services, Council services and the Health Promotion Units to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The policy will be reviewed regularly and in the light of any drug-related incident.

SPECIFIC POLICY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS

1. Tobacco

Smoking and the possession of smoking materials, including e-cigarettes and shisha pens, are forbidden, regardless of the nicotine content. Pupils should not return to School having clearly smoked elsewhere. These are Serious Offences.

All Smoking incidents are reported to a pupil's teacher/headteacher and parents will normally be informed at the earliest opportunity. All offences will be reported to the Head. A first offence will attract a minimum of two day's reflection and may require the writing out of an appropriate report which considers the damage to health caused by smoking. A second offence attracts a week's reflection, with a letter sent home. Thereafter the whole question becomes more one of consultation with parents in conjunction with the sanction. A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling (at the parents' expense) where we have reason to believe that he or she has issues with tobacco, for example, when there are repeated infringements.

Continued abuse of the smoking rule may result in fixed term or permanent exclusion.

E-Cigarettes and vaping are treated in the same way as other forms of smoking.

The School will always contact the manager of any establishment found to be active in selling tobacco or tobacco products to under age pupils and the Police may also be informed.

Members of staff (teaching and non-teaching) are reminded that smoking is banned across the school grounds both inside and outside buildings. It is also expected that staff should refrain from smoking in the presence of pupils at any time.

2. Alcohol

If pupils are found with alcohol in school, this will be confiscated and parents/guardians informed. Pupils misusing alcohol in school, coming into school under the influence of alcohol or bringing alcohol into school to give or sell to other pupils are likely to receive a fixed term exclusion. Any arising anti-social behaviour may lead to permanent exclusion.

All alcohol offences by pupils or staff will be reported to The Head and to parents respectively. Evidence of alcohol consumption will be enough to attract a disciplinary reaction. Minor alcohol offences would be considered to be possession of alcohol. These can lead to sanctions and the writing out of an appropriate report. The first two offences being comparable to being caught Smoking. A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling (at the parents' expense) where we have reason to believe that he or she has issues with alcohol, for example, when there are repeated infringements. Suspension and expulsion are ultimate possibilities. For alcohol offences the School reserves the right to telephone parents and ask them to collect their child immediately.

In the case of any incident involving the sale of alcohol to under age pupils, the School will personally contact the manager of the establishment involved and the Police will be informed.

3. Drugs

The School outlines that the taking, possessing or dealing in drugs is forbidden.

The definition of a drug used by the DfE in 'Drugs guidance for Schools' is:

A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This includes:

- Drugs which are controlled/illegal substances (for example cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD and mephedrone) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Also so-called legal or herbal highs, which are considered illegal under current medicines legislation to sell, supply or advertise for 'human consumption'.

- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines used improperly, which can include sleeping tablets and slimming tablets

- All legal drugs when misused including volatile substances and solvents, Ketamine, Khat, alkyl nitrites.

- Drugs which are misused to enhance performance (for example analgesics or steroids)

The Head teacher reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur, based on the DfE definition of a drug above.

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Havelock, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. All our staff have been trained in recognising and responding to the symptoms of drug and substance abuse. Any member of staff or parent concerned that a pupil might be involved in drug abuse should inform the pupil's teacher and Safeguarding lead immediately.

We will always investigate rumours about involvements in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, searching his/her personal possessions. We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

Our sanctions policy is as follows:

i. Any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will be permanently excluded.

ii. Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs while under the School's jurisdiction in term time loses any right to immediate membership of the School and must expect exclusion to be a very strong possibility.

a. In some cases there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered.

b. The Head will normally consult the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it carries the possibility of being a criminal offence.

iii. The scope of the School's discipline reaches to the point where there is a transfer of responsibility from school to parent. However, where it becomes known that drugs abuse is taking place outside school, then the School is then in possession of information, which could be deemed to be criminal and may thus:

- a. Inform parents of the nature of what is being said.
- b. Ask that there should be drug counselling.
- c. Require that the pupil be drug tested in the future.
- d. Talk to the local police about the matter.
- iv. In the event of the School's reputation being brought into disrepute it will be the School's qualified right to invoke its full disciplinary procedures.
- v. Any subsequent drugs abuse will result in permanent exclusion.
- vii. Solvent abuse is also a serious school offence. The School may react to solvent abuse in a similar way to other forms of drug abuse.

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