



DRUGS & SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

- 1.1 The Staff and Governors of Redland Green School are aware of the harm drugs can cause and we are concerned about the health and welfare of all members of the school community. We wish to be supportive of any members of the community who are facing the consequences of substance abuse.
- 1.2 We do not tolerate any substance abuse. Drugs and substances covered by the policy include tobacco, alcohol, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines, as well as illicit substances. All drug use including medicinal use carries the potential for harm.

2 AIMS

- 2.1 Children and young people of school age are part of society, and as such the school recognises and acknowledges its responsibility to:
- Provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed healthy choices and decisions
 - Prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse to users, their family and friends
 - Work very closely with families and external and relevant support agencies to ensure a balanced drug education programme for all students and, where appropriate, provide relevant intervention

3 PREVENTION

- 3.1 Students will receive education on the use and misuse of drugs and substances through the national curriculum, in particular Science and PSHE, as well as through the Healthy Schools initiative.

4 SUBSTANCES ON SITE

- 4.1 The position of Redland Green School is as follows:

4.2 TOBACCO

The school operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the building and grounds. This policy applies to students, employees, parents, carers and visitors. Students are also forbidden to smoke whilst in school uniform anywhere at all.

- 4.3 Post 16 students are forbidden to smoke within 150 metres of the school grounds. This is in order to discourage smoking amongst students, to protect the reputation of the school with our neighbours and to avoid a bad example being set to younger students.

4.4 ALCOHOL

The possession and use of alcohol on school premises during the working day is prohibited for all members of the school community.

- 4.5 As a rule, alcohol should not be consumed at any function where students are present but this is left to the careful discretion of the Headteacher for each event.

4.6 **SOLVENTS**

The school recognises that many ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed. White board markers should be kept secure at all times. Correcting fluid is not permitted in school. Aerosol sprays are not permitted for use in school.

4.7 **MEDICATION: OVER THE COUNTER AND PRESCRIBED DRUGS**

Where it is necessary for students to receive medication in school, parents/carers should make a written request and the medication should be handed into the school office from which it will be dispensed. The school will not dispense paracetamol without authorisation from parents/carers. Asthma reliever inhalers are kept by students for easy and immediate access. Spare inhalers are kept by first aid staff.

4.8 **Staff are not legally obliged to administer medicines.**

4.9 Designated staff will be trained in administration of medication, as necessary and appropriate.

4.10 **CHEWING GUM**

Chewing gum is not allowed anywhere on school premises at any time.

5 **PROCEDURES**

5.1 **DISCOVERY OF SUBSTANCES NOT PERMITTED IN SCHOOL**

- If a student is discovered possessing, using or dealing in any substances not permitted in school, he/she will be escorted to a senior member of staff
- The school will follow current police guidelines on dealing with the issue
- The senior member of staff will seek to remove a suspicious substance from the student in the presence of an adult witness or to secure the voluntary production of any substances believed to be concealed on the student. Intimate physical searches should not be made by any teacher
- The situation will be investigated promptly and thoroughly and a written record made
- The Designated Child Protection Officer will be informed
- The student will be kept out of class away from peers. The student will be informed of the seriousness of the situation (particularly if the substance is an illegal one). The parents/carers will be asked to attend the school and the police may also be informed
- The Headteacher will be notified and will sanction appropriate interim pastoral and disciplinary measures and notify the student's parents/carers
- If the substance is illegal, the Headteacher will decide whether to hand the substance over to the police or destroy the substance in the presence of an adult witness
- The Governing Body of the school will be informed

5.2 **ACTION**

The school will consider each drug incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. It will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. The school seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other school members and the local community. The range of responses includes:

- The use of counselling services
- Referral to outside agencies
- Intensive in-school programmes (local and national)
- Inter-agency education programmes
- Possible sanctions include: detentions, parents/carers taking students home for the day, fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion is an option to be used as a last resort
- The management of drug-related incidents will be co-ordinated through a named member of the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). A log of all incidents will be kept, using the Bristol City Council form for this purpose

5.3 This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Agreed by Staff	Agreed by Pupils	Agreed by Governors	Review Schedule	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed
N/A	N/A	11 JUL 2006	3 Years	24 SEP 2007	11 MAR 2010	13 NOV 2013	
Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed	Date Reviewed