



ROSEBERY SCHOOL

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

(September 2011)

Introduction

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify Rosebery School's role in delivering substance abuse education and the procedures deemed necessary when dealing with substance abuse at school. The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken is consistent with the Behaviour Code and our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles. The policy is supported by the PDE curriculum, with its emphasis on making informed, wise choices.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Schools policies on PDE, Behaviour and Health and Safety.

This policy applies at all times on the school premises, as well as on offsite educational visits.

Definition

The substances referred to either directly or indirectly in this policy are: 'Drugs' taken here to mean those that are legal, yet age restricted, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, etc.

Policy principles

- Rosebery School believes that the possession and, or use of, such substances in school, during the school day, while travelling to or from school, or on a school organised visit, is both wrong and incompatible with our aims.
- The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day or while students are on organised visits.
- Rosebery is a smoke-free environment and, in accordance with the law, no one student, staff, contractor or visitor may smoke in any part of the school or the grounds.
- The use of substances whilst identifiable as a student at Rosebery School is also deemed to be unacceptable, even if this takes place outside school hours. As such, the school has the legal right to impose sanctions for 'bringing the school into disrepute'.
- If a member of the school staff suspects that a student is abusing substances outside school, they must inform the Head of House/Assistant Head Inclusion. In most cases the student will be interviewed and parents/carers informed.

- Students known to be abusing substances should be referred (assuming they are compliant) to Drug Support services such as Catch 22. This information is also to be available in the student planner.

However individual exceptions may be made:

- for students who require prescription medicines where appropriate (in accordance with the school's Policy on Medicines)
- on school visits for students who are legally entitled to smoke or drink alcohol, but only under staff supervision and only at the discretion of the party leader, and when under 18s are not present

Implementation of policy principles:

Drug and Alcohol Education

In the context of our ongoing involvement in the National Healthy Schools initiative Rosebery is thoroughly committed to ensuring our students receive quality, up-to-date Drug and Alcohol Education. The principles of which are:

- to provide accurate and up-to-date information about drugs/alcohol
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drugs/alcohol use and misuse
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues
- to promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- to enable students to make informed and healthy choices
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support.

The Curriculum

The issue of substance abuse may occur in many subjects, including Sociology, Psychology, Health & Social Care, Science, RS, English, Drama and PE. However, it is specifically addressed through PDE lessons where, in addition to form tutors, it is delivered by specialist agencies.

Dealing with Substance Abuse related incidents

Any medical emergencies should be dealt with via recourse to emergency services as a priority.

In cases of substance use or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits, the case should be discussed with the student(s) and a written record taken. Parents/carers should be informed as soon as possible. If the student is judged to be adversely affected by the substance, she should be removed from the premises by parents/carers. Upon return, the student will then be subject to the usual disciplinary procedures.

Substances should be returned to parents/carers if they are legal but age appropriate. If the substance is illegal, or thought to be illegal, it should be stored in a container and placed in the school safe. This should be witnessed by at least two members of staff. The school should then contact the police and the substance transferred to their care.

When it is suspected that substance abuse may have taken place out school (weekends or evening), staff must inform the relevant Head of House or Assistant Head Inclusion. The issue should be discussed with the student and recorded. If there is reasonable suspicion, parents/carers should be informed and the student advised of support organisations, such as Catch 22. Contact details are in the student planner.

Teacher responsible for substance abuse - Assistant Head, Inclusion.

Policy Date September 2010

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