### Anti-Drugs Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governor Committee Responsible</th>
<th>Welfare</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Staff member Responsible</strong></td>
<td>Richard Clarke</td>
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<td><strong>Policy Type</strong></td>
<td>Statutory</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Review period</strong></td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Review date:</strong></td>
<td>2013/14</td>
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<td><strong>Next Review:</strong></td>
<td>2016/17</td>
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RYBURN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

ALCOHOL/DRUGS POLICY

FLOWCHART TO MANAGE MISUSE

Rumour and Suspicion/Concern

Record concern and inform Deputy Headteacher Pastoral

Investigation process

Drugs found or suspicions confirmed

Take possession of the substance to destroy it or hand it to police

Inform Head/KSM/HOYs

Pupils found in possession without medical authority (including journey to and from school)

Governors Welfare Committee decide to readmit pupil

NO

Contact Parents Police Pupil excluded

Care Plan including Lifelines YES

Governors Welfare Committee decide to readmit pupil

Case referred to The Headteacher

Reports not reliable

No further action

Reports not reliable confirmed/no evidence

No further action necessary
1. General Information

• Definition

A drug is any substance the use of which alters the physiological or psychological functioning of the body (this includes alcohol).

• The Context

Young people are constantly exposed to the issues regarding the use and misuse of drugs in our society. They therefore have an educational need to learn to live safely within a society in which there is widespread use and misuse of drugs.

• None of the following applies to drugs which are prescribed for a pupil’s own use by a medical practitioner. The school expects to be formally informed by parents if a pupil requires medication during the school day.

The Ryburn Response

• Our school does not condone the possession, supply or misuse of any illegal drug on or off school premises.

• The school recognises that Drugs fall into three distinct categories:
  - those it is legal to possess and to use: tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances, such as solvents and glues.
  - those it is illegal to possess, supply or use, such as cannabis, ecstasy, LSD, amphetamines, cocaine, heroin.
  - those it is legal to obtain as prescribed medicines but which have the potential to cause harm, either if misused or obtained illegally (e.g. by theft from prescribed users).

• Despite the varying opinions and personal practices of parents and families in relation to these categories of drugs, we see no place in school for pupils to be in possession of or experiencing the effects of such substances.

3. Drugs Education Policy

• The central aims of our Drugs Education Policy are:
  - to give our students the facts, knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed and responsible choices now and later in life about lifestyles.
  - to have a full appreciation of the benefits of a healthy and safe lifestyle.
• Drugs Education in the school is co-ordinated by the Head of Personal, Social and Health
Education.

• The main but not exclusive vehicle for the delivery of Drugs Education is the PSHE programme. This emphasises in all aspect of its curriculum is the Nurturing of self-confidence and self-esteem, and to give students sufficient objective information to enable young people to make rational personal decisions.

• The Drugs Education work of the school actively builds links with appropriate agencies in the community, including the Police and Advice and Counselling services.

• An increasing number of teachers have received training to raise general levels of awareness and vigilance in the school.

• Co-operation with parents is an important dimension to our work. Drugs Awareness and Health Days/Evenings have been arranged for parents, using external services, to enable dissemination of information and general discussion.

FULL DETAILS OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE HEAD OF PERSONAL SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION.

4. The Management Of Drugs Related Incidents

• General Circumstances

- All members of staff are required to be vigilant in relation to all matters of health, welfare, safety and security. The effective operation of the school’s pastoral system depends on all colleagues sharing this commitment and being prepared to raise concerns with senior colleagues and those with designated responsibilities.

- All pupils are also encouraged and reminded to be aware of the needs of their fellow pupils and to feel sufficiently confident to discuss problems or concerns with members of staff.

- Where a member of staff has grounds for concern, he or she will normally be expected to bring those to the attention of the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral), who will alert the Headteacher of the situation.

• Establishing the Facts

- Establishing a clear understanding of the facts is an essential first step before deciding on any course of action. Because of the sensitivity surrounding these issues, unsubstantiated allegation can cause great difficulty. Periodically, the school receives information from anonymous sources, typically someone claiming to be a parent or friend of the school. Every effort is made to establish the identity of such informants. It is difficult to manage successfully ‘rumours’ or ‘tip-offs’, however well intended.
- The conduct of an investigation into an allegation will normally be conducted by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) KSM and or HOY. Discussion will take place about action after this process.

- **Action to be taken**

- A variety of circumstances may arise, each of which requires a different response. In determining the appropriate response, the members of staff dealing with it will be mindful of pastoral and legal considerations.

1. Drugs are discovered on school premises but not on a person
   - the drugs will be placed in a secure place
   - the police will be informed and arrangements made for disposal

2. Drugs related material, such as syringes, needles etc are discovered on school premises but not on a person
   - As above but with particular attention to safety in handling sharp objects

3. A pupil is found in possession of drugs but with no evidence of being under the influence of the drug
   - investigation
   - involvement of parents
   - return to parents of legal substances (eg alcohol) or arrange disposal
   - involvement of police if student is in possession of illegal drugs or in illegal possession of prescribed drugs.
   - Pupil referred to Governors Welfare

4. A pupil is found in possession of drug related materials
   - as above, with involvement of police if investigation suggests this is appropriate

5. A pupil is suspected of buying or using a drug or alcohol (including journey to and from school)
   - ensure safety of individual and treat as a medical emergency, if appropriate
   - try to confiscate any further supply of substance to ensure safety. If successful, store and record
   - investigate once pupil is able to participate in investigation
   - contact police
   - refer pupil to Governors Welfare

6. A student is suspected of supplying drugs
   - establish whether the substance in question is legal or illegal
   - attempt to establish whether the drug is for personal use or for supply
- involve parents
- if substance is illegal, contact police who will set up a criminal investigation
- refer pupil to Governors Welfare

Smoking is regarded as a breach of school discipline. Pupils caught smoking will have their cigarettes removed, be put in a Senior Staff Detention, and have their parents’ contacted.

Area 4 will depend on materials found. At the very least parents will be contacted.

Area 3, 5, and 6 will result in exclusion pending a Governors Welfare Meeting. Police and parents will be informed.

It should be noted that:-
- Society views with grave concern the use of illegal drugs. It is much more indulgent in regard to alcohol and tobacco.
- The school is an educative community and as such aims to change unacceptable or damaging behaviour when it occurs.
- The school needs to be prepared to distinguish between the self-inflicted damage suffered by an individual or group of individuals who misuse drugs and the damage done by those who abuse the school by making it a place to profit from the vulnerability of others.
- The school will examine and deal with each situation on its merits but will not baulk at the possibility of using the ultimate sanction of permanent exclusion to deal with deliberate criminal activity and drug peddling.

**Conclusion**

- The use or misuse of drugs in our society is a complex issues. Dealing with the issue, the school needs a measured and sensitive approach.

- Our school has developed a range of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling that reflect the range of drugs-related problems. The school accepts its responsibility to support and help those who misuse drugs. At the same time, its major response, through its educational programme, will continue to be to prepare young people for responsible adulthood.

- We believe that we are striving to fulfil our obligations under the Education Reform Act 1988 and DfEE Circular 4/95.
Support documentation

PSHCE Drugs Education curriculum
Calderdale Education Effectiveness Service Documentation

RYBURN ALSO HAVE:-

Year group assemblies on drugs policy

Special Evening session on types of drugs and tell tale signs of use for parents (October 2006) and hopefully (2012)

A drop in unit within Ryburn School for youngsters at risk (Pupil Welfare) and access to specialist counselling Positive Futures

Trained peer mentors in the 6th Form to help with Drugs Education

Drugs Education Training done with all Heads of Year/Pastoral Staff

Close links with the police re education and the law (including home visits)

The Drugs Policy posted on the VLE