

ALCOHOL POLICY IN SCHOOL - GUIDANCE

All schools have an important role in providing young people with information about the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol. Two key inspection judgements from OfSTED state that:

'Learners are discouraged from smoking and substance abuse.'

'Learners are taught about key risks and how to deal with them.'

(Ofsted Report 2005)

Why an alcohol policy?

- o The Department for Education expects all schools to educate young people about the risks associated with alcohol misuse (Drugs: Guidance for Schools, DfES/0092/2004, p23) Drug Education in Schools, A report from the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, HMI 2392, Ofsted, July 2005
- o The Every Child Matters Agenda
- o The effectiveness and safety of school staff
- o Health and safety legislation
- o Litigation

Statutory duty of the school

The head teacher has overall responsibility for the alcohol policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents and appropriate outside agencies. The head teacher must ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, must be passed to the police.

What should schools be aiming for?

A school response should be aiming for an alcohol policy that is consistent, safe and promotes the health and well being of the school community. This will require staff, pupils and parents to support a policy which acknowledges that:

- o it is not acceptable for staff to be under the influence of alcohol when professionally active and responsible for either pupils, parents, other colleagues and /or school property
- o it is not acceptable for staff or pupils to bring alcohol onto the school premises for consumption when the school is operational

- o social activities, out of hours but on school premises are planned to ensure they promote sensible drinking
- o there are supportive and consistent links to the curriculum
- o there is a need for a developmental process of implementation that is sensitive to individual concerns, cultures and behaviours.

Issues to be considered regarding an alcohol policy

- o It is difficult to imagine any situation for staff who are professionally responsible for young people, where it would be acceptable to drink alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol.
- o Social occasions arranged by/in school should have at the very least non-alcohol drinks available.
- o School trips and holidays are particularly difficult - Provide clear guidance to staff, parents and pupils for school trips (particularly abroad).
- o Procedures regarding staff drinking both before and during times when they are professionally responsible.
- o Access to support for staff and pupils if drinking is a problem.
- o Promotion of information about the impact of drinking.
- o Links to the formal planned curriculum.

The 2012 DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools:

gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools

A toolkit to create or update drugs and alcohol policy:

mentoruk.org.uk/toolkit-for-schools/

Government updated safeguarding guidance 'Keeping children safe in education - Statutory guidance for schools and colleges'

gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf

Policy notes for Alcohol Education

Purpose

To support the health, welfare and safety of all school members.

Policy Statement

The school recognises that alcohol is for many people a part of their lifestyle and culture. This policy seeks neither to condone nor to condemn alcohol use but to ensure that procedures and practices are established that will support:

- o the health and safety of all school members
- o professional responsibility
- o a safe learning environment.

Procedures

- o On no account is a member of staff to be under the influence of alcohol when working. If anyone suspects this is the case, action must be taken to ensure the health and safety of pupils and a senior member of staff must be informed.
- o If any pupil or staff has problems with drinking they will be provided with access to confidential support.
- o Social occasions for staff and the school community will be planned to ensure safer drinking.
- o All pupils will receive education about alcohol use and alcohol issues through the curriculum.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation will include elements of the following:

- o a review of staff, parent and pupil views regarding alcohol use in school
- o an assessment of responses to the alcohol policy and identified success criteria
- o a report to the governing body including any incidences will be provided annually
- o links to curriculum development .

Staff responsible

PSHE Co-ordinator, Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Head of Pastoral, Union Reps, link governor.

Links to other Policies

Smoking Policy
Drug Education
Responding to Drug Related Incidents

Date Signed.....