

DRUGS POLICY

Mission Statement

At Olderfleet Primary School we value, nurture and develop all of our pupils to reach their individual potential and provide a welcoming atmosphere which creates a sense of belonging amongst families.

We encourage challenges and opportunities to equip our children with resilience and determination in a safe environment of respect, tolerance and inclusivity.

Vision Statement

To enable every individual regardless of ability to achieve their full potential, to prepare for future life and to become lifelong learners, developing a thirst for learning and to become good citizens.

We believe that every child should enjoy their education and be happy, healthy and safe at school. We will value our children for their individuality, culture and diversity.

We are committed to providing a place of high quality learning experiences and maintaining educational standards

THE SCHOOL'S ATTITUDE TO DRUG USE

Definition

'A 'drug' is any substance, which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.' [From 'Drugs: guidance for schools in N.I.']

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include

- Alcohol and tobacco.
- 'over the counter' medicines such as paracetamol.
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics.
- volatile substances such as glues, aerosols, petrol, thinners and aerosols
- poppers and magic mushrooms.
- illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, heroin and cocaine

Whilst we oppose the use of illicit drugs, that is any drug listed as a 'controlled' drug, including substances such as glues, solvents, nitrates, the deliberate inhaling of what is deemed socially unacceptable and harmful, we recognise that there are a small number of young people within our school who need to take prescribed drugs regularly to maintain their physical well-being.

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In Olderfleet Primary School, we take a serious view of drug abuse and see it as totally unacceptable on school premises. We would respond to any incident by implementing the procedures following in this document.

We aim to develop skills and attitudes to help a young person to live a drug-free lifestyle in a drug-orientated society.

Primary drugs education provides an opportunity for children to learn about drugs and build foundations for a healthy drug-free lifestyle.

A RATIONALE FOR INCLUDING DRUGS EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM

Why do drugs education in the primary school?

- a. Statistics show that anti-smoking education in schools has been effective and thus can form the basis of a broader approach in tackling the issues involved in the misuse of drugs.
- b. To counter-balance the influence of youth culture, peer pressure, the media and the influence of older friends.

We believe in current culture that it is realistic to realise that our pupils will be exposed to drugs at some point in their lives. The school aims to provide a supportive and informative environment where children can learn the skills and attitudes necessary to live sensibly in a drug-orientated society.

Drugs education is a whole school issue. The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach by staff on drugs education and the outlined procedure in the handling of incidents.

AN OVERVIEW OF DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education will be interwoven throughout PDMU. It is an on-going programme taking into account the personal and social development of the pupil.

Different aspects of drugs education will be taught through Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in step with the maturity of pupils. Topics taught will take account of the child's present knowledge and/or experience of drugs.

Drugs Education will permeate all areas of the curriculum, though more detailed approaches will be taken in PDMU, RE, World Around Us and Literacy.

METHODS OF TEACHING AND ORGANISATION

The class teacher will take prime responsibility for the delivery of the drugs education programme. [If desired and deemed suitable an outside speaker may be requested to come into school, under the supervision of the class teacher.]

The teacher will endeavour to adopt a pupil-centred approach to encourage active pupil participation either by whole class methods, group or individual activities e.g. role play, drama and appropriate games. Whilst endeavouring to adopt the preventative approach, supportive counselling will be requested, if necessary.

AIMS OF DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The ultimate aim is to protect young people from the harm associated with the use and misuse of drugs.

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- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health
- To help pupils to come to an understanding of the 'rightness' or 'wrongness' of certain behaviours
- To help pupils understand the influence they can be on their friends
- To help young people to distinguish between useful and harmful drugs and consider their use, abuse, benefits and harm
- To develop the skills and confidence of young people to refuse a 'drug' offer
- The ability to make informed decisions, independent of others, about the use of drugs
- To encourage a healthy and critical respect for all substances taken into the body
- To explore healthy methods of dealing with pressures, anxieties, boredom etc.

MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF DRUGS EDUCATION

Our school's designated teachers for Drugs Incidents are Mr Harvey and Mrs Brownlees.

Our school's deputy-designated teacher for Drugs Incidents is Mrs Godfrey.

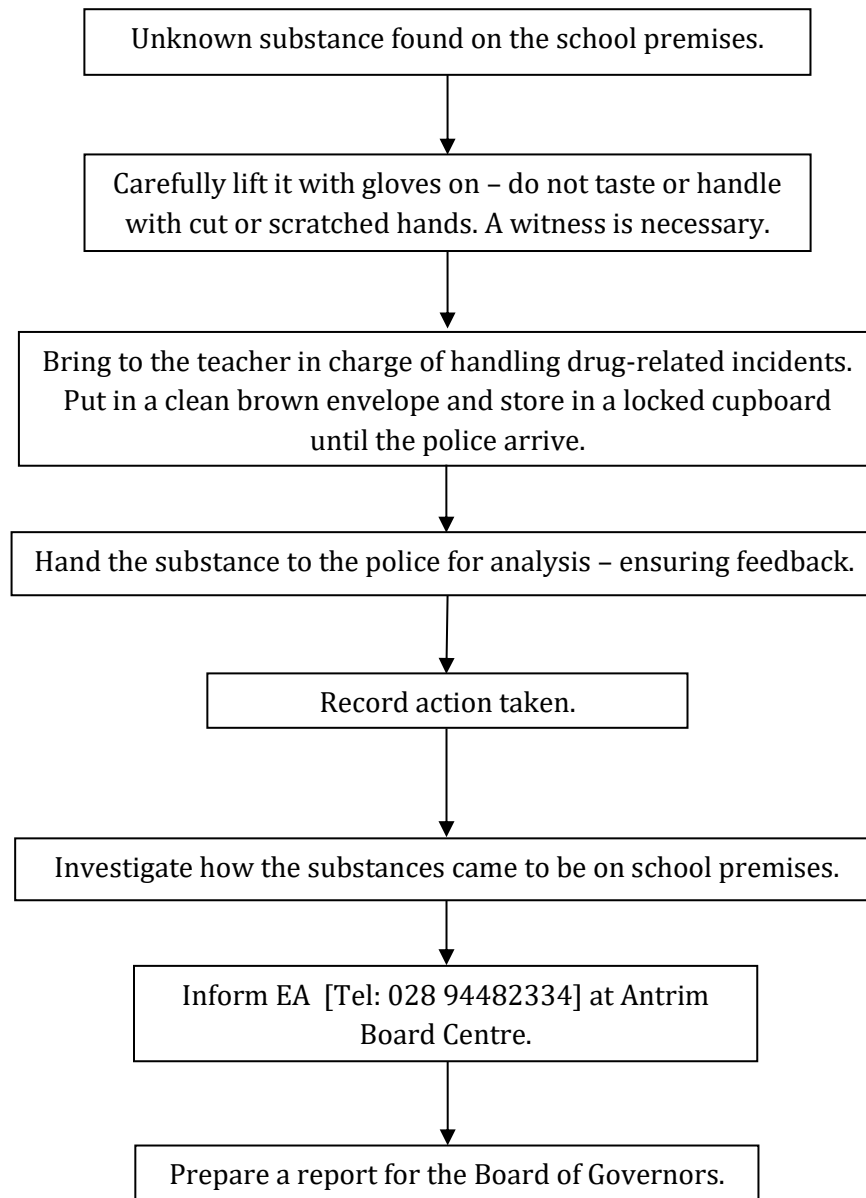
Progress in implementing the policy will be monitored and periodically reviewed in light of EA/DENI requirements.

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PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

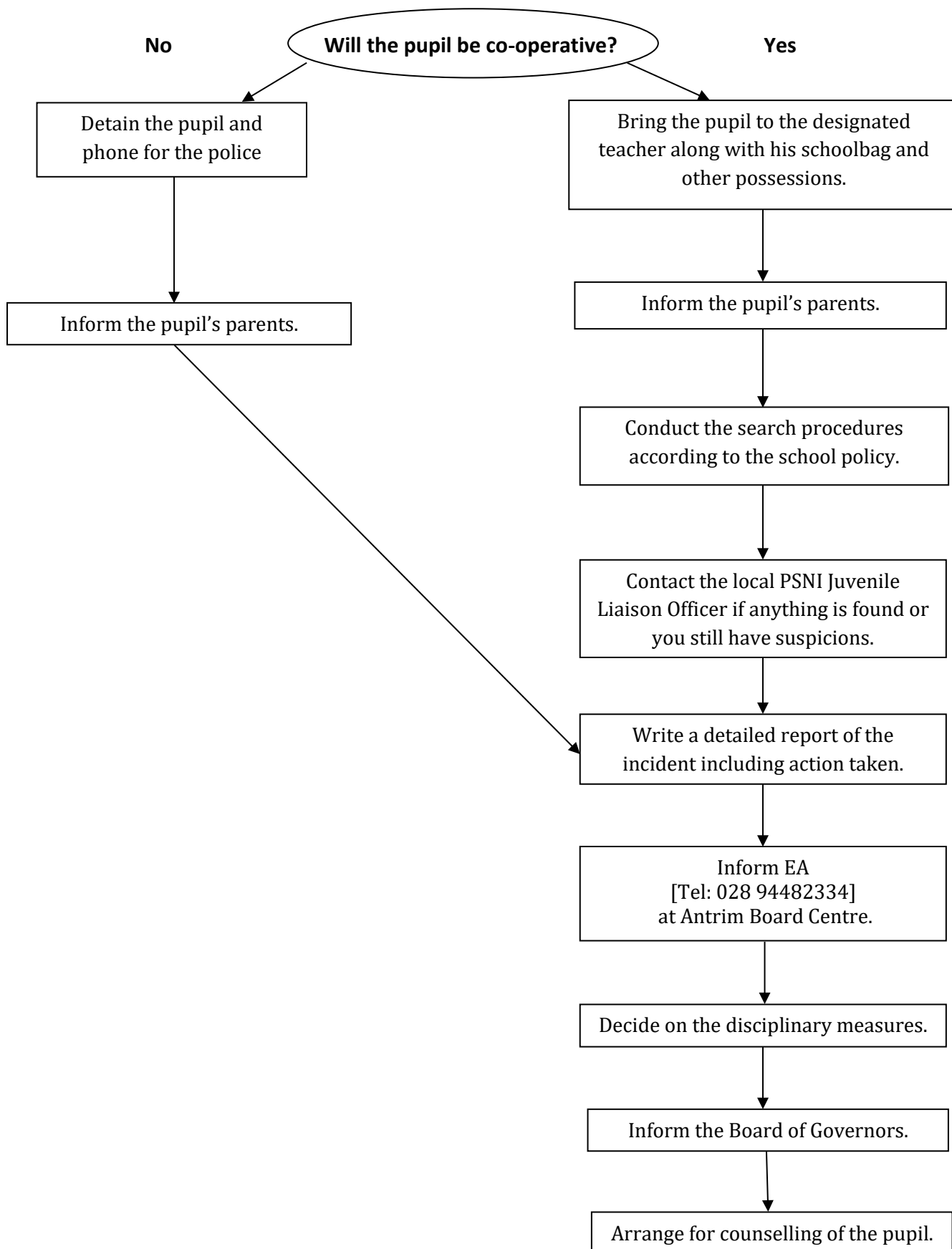
All teachers will know and consider the EA guidelines to schools on what to do in drug related incidents. Procedures for dealing with drug related incidents in this school are shown in the following flowcharts.

Finding a substance on the school premises



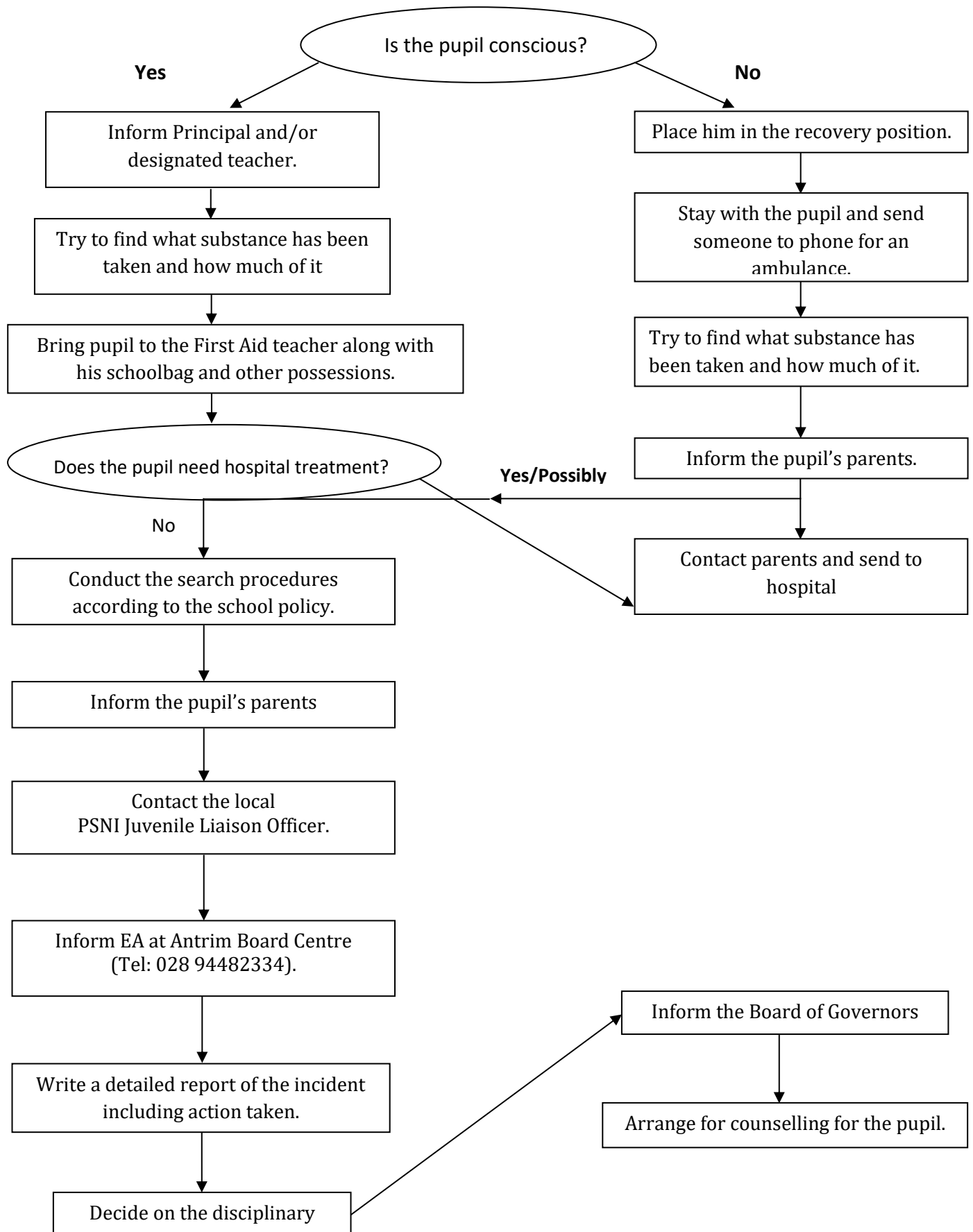
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Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance



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Pupil suspected of having taken drugs in school



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If a pupil is suspected to be in possession of a drug the school has the authority to search all school property, also the personal belongings of a pupil, **with the pupil's consent**, in the presence of another member of staff. If an illegal substance is found the pupil will be detained and the police and pupil's parents will be informed. Teachers are bound by law to inform the police of any drug related incident or information pertaining to the misuse of drugs. Any substance discovered will be handed to the police for analysis. Only the principal may speak to the Press concerning any matter which occurs in school.

OUTLINE OF THE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The school views the carrying or consuming of drugs as extremely serious and appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the school discipline policy will be taken. The ultimate sanction imposed will be suspension whilst an investigation is being carried out. The Principal retains the right to use her discretion in exceptional circumstances, in line with EA and DENI Guidelines.

The school expects the parents to support their actions and co-operate with the school for the safety and well-being of all children.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENTS IN SCHOOL

Ref: Health and Safety in Education – A Manual for Parents and Governors.

Each member of the staff has the responsibility to ensure the safety of both the pupils and themselves.

The school will use discretion as to which types of markers, glues etc., will be allowed in school. All such materials will be stored as safely as is practically possible and in their original containers including those under the supervision of the caretaker.

It is essential that all substances that could be abused are kept under lock and key at all times when not being used by cleaners or buildings supervisor.

In line with EA Policy and in the interests of Health and Safety, spray aerosols, (deodorants or hair sprays) are not permitted in school or at the swimming pool.

The Management of Prescribed Medicines

Only essential medicines should be brought into school by pupils requiring on-going treatment and written directions should be provided by parents on forms provided by DE (Ref DENI **Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs**)

During activities outside school hours, e.g. a school trip, the teacher-in-charge must liaise with parents regarding medication.

The teacher-in-charge should hold medicines in a secure place.

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REFERENCE TO THE TRAINING OF STAFF AND PARENTS IN THE RECOGNITION OF DRUGS AND THEIR SYMPTOMS

The training of staff and parents in the recognition of drugs and their associated symptoms will be ongoing. It has been recommended that this process take place every two years by either of the following bodies

- EA Human Resources
- Drug Squad

All staff should be included in this training also the Board of Governors and parents will be invited to attend.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE 'DESIGNATED TEACHER' FOR DRUGS INCIDENTS ARE:

- liaising with other bodies in relation to drugs incidents (PSNI, counselling groups etc.)
- supervising any drug related incident at school
- liaising with other staff on drug matters
- liaising with the Principal on any drug-related incident at school
- recognise the need for having a member of staff trained in the necessary first-aid skills to cope with a pupil under the influence of drugs
- to ensure that all staff are aware of emergency procedures and implementing the other parts of the policy.

Signed by the Principal

Signed by the Chair of the Board of Governors
