

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE Non-Statutory Policy – Biennial Review

GOVERNORS' EDUCATION & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date next due for review by committee	Reviewed by committee	Any Changes YES/NO	Approved by Full Governors
May 2010	15 June 2010	Yes	29 June 2010
June 2012	6 Nov 2012	Yes	n/a minor amend
June 2014	20 May 2014	No	n/a
June 2016	17 May 2016	Yes	Ratified by committee
June 2018	19 June 2018	Yes	Ratified by committee
June 2020			

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

Policy on Substance Use and Misuse

School Statement

At Magdalen College School, we aspire to develop each individual's personal, aesthetic, spiritual and moral growth in order to create a positive community in which we value ourselves, others and our environment.

Aims:

1. To underline the school's belief that it has a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of substance/drug use and misuse.
2. To keep parents informed and involved unless this is likely to cause possible physical, mental or emotional damage to the student.
3. To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
4. To provide accurate information about substances and increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
5. To help staff and students to develop an understanding of the problems faced by those who are experiencing or who are likely to experience substance use.
6. To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
7. To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
8. To enable young people to identify sources of support.

Objectives:

1. To map the fulfilment of the above aims, through aspects of students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.
2. To ensure that the school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police, Social Care, Local Authority, Health and Drug agencies in order to fulfil its commitment to drugs education and deal effectively with incidents of substance abuse and misuse.
3. To ensure that Health Education is a vital part of PCSHE for every student.
4. To create opportunities for parents to become better informed.
5. To place information in the school library and Student Services

Procedures

1. The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.
2. In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises and following discussions between staff members who know the student well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher or an appropriate member of staff. The school and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved.
3. If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the member of staff will inform a member of the Leadership Group who will take appropriate action with the Leader of Learning or other relevant members of staff. This will include encouraging the young person to accept counselling from the organisation that works closely with the school e.g. CAN.
4. In situations where relevant parties believe that the young person's behaviour is being adversely affected due to regular substance misuse, then an alternative curriculum will be considered.
5. At all times, the student will be encouraged to discuss the issues with parents and support will be provided for the student in order to facilitate this process. The Leadership Group or Leader of Learning will involve Parents in discussions on how best to support the student in dealing with misuse of substances.
6. There is no legal obligation to inform the Police, though the Police may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details of the incidence, including the names of those involved will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer.
7. The Governing Body will be involved in policy-making in relation to substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the leadership of the school.
8. The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved with the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion will be regarded as the last resort as it may simply transfer the problem.
9. Through the PCSHE programme the school will ensure that all students are fully aware of the dangers of substance misuse and will provide accessible information about agencies that offer support and guidance to young people.

10. Multi-agency meetings for parents to address substance issues and concerns are held as needs arise.

11. In all cases Child Protection procedures will be adhered to.

Monitoring

1. All incidents will be recorded and the Headteacher informed
2. The Governors' Education & Welfare Committee will discuss issues relating to substance use and misuse on an annual basis at their summer meeting.

Evaluation

1. The Leadership Group and The Pastoral Team will review the effectiveness of action taken on an annual basis.