



## **SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (ACADEMY)**

### **SCHOOL AIMS**

South Wilts is a progressive grammar school for girls which aims to maintain high academic standards and cultural achievement within a caring environment. We seek to encourage responsibility and personal fulfilment so that students attain their maximum potential. The School is dynamic and works with the community to prepare its students for life-long learning and adult independence.

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS EDUCATION AND RELATED INCIDENT POLICY**

*We believe that we have a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. Health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social education programme.*

#### **Definition**

Drugs include alcohol, tobacco, solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, legal highs and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD. The proper medical use of approved medicines is covered by the 'Medication for Students' policy.

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the working day, including when students are on school visits. These rules also apply to adults working at the school.

The school considers the use of e-cigarettes to be covered by this policy and will treat their use in the same way as regular cigarettes. Given the marketing surrounding these devices, the school considers the use of all such cigarettes or vaping devices to be covered under this policy, whether or not they contain nicotine.

#### **Statement of policy on substance use and misuse**

- South Wilts Grammar school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- South Wilts Grammar School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- South Wilts Grammar School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social education of every student.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

We recognise that the majority of young people do not use or misuse substances, but it is important to note that the minority that does is growing in numbers. We will continue to support their differing needs.

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills
- to provide accurate information about substances
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, eg. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. We deliver in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHE, Science and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. Visitors who support the school will be informed of the values held within this policy.

### **The Roles of the Head Teacher and Governing Body**

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies and within the school the Head Teacher has general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff who know the student well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher or appropriate member of the pastoral staff. The school and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but if the teacher believes there is a danger to the student or others, then the appropriate action is to inform the Headteacher, who may inform the parents.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, unless substances are found on the premises, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice and we recognise that they wish to maintain an overview of the illegal drug situation in the Salisbury area. 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 regarding those involved and as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer.

The Governing body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

The school will consider each incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. While investigations take place it *may* be best if the student(s) involved are not in school temporarily. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort as it may only transfer the problem.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media if necessary. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice to ensure that any reporting of incidents are in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

These sanctions will be used as guidelines: -

Smoking - school detention where parents are informed.

Cannabis use - invite parents in for a discussion on the course of action which is likely to include a fixed term exclusion.

Supplying drugs to others - parents and police informed and permanent exclusion is likely depending on the stage of education reached.