

# BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL

## DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MIS-USE POLICY

Written by:	R Parker	Date	July 2015	Policy ref	A38
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### Section A Introduction

#### **Context**

This drugs policy covers not only illegal drugs (such as cannabis, heroin and ecstasy) but legal ones too, like alcohol, tobacco and solvents. Although the majority of young people of school-age do not abuse drugs, all pupils/students are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Such experiments may lead to serious and far reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For children and young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

The school is particularly concerned with the growing dangers of legal highs and we are proactive in ensuring that pupils and students are educated and made aware of their potential harm. This is done principally through PSHE, Science, assemblies, health awareness days and, where appropriate, targeted input by the Drugs Designated Senior Person (R Parker) and/or Warrington Police drugs unit and/or the Drugswatch Trust.

#### **Purpose**

Bridgewater High School has a whole-school approach to drugs as part of its commitment to being a healthy school. The policy aims to enable pupils/students to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal and substance mis-use in general. This is done by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing pupils/students' confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support. The final page of the policy sets out the procedures agreed by the governing body to be followed when any drugs and substance misuse has been identified. To protect the safety and well-being of all pupils/students and staff, drugs must not be possessed or bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils/students are on school visits. The policy and procedures apply to all adults working at and for the school. (*Reference: Staff Policy*)

## Section B Statements and procedures

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The Principal will ensure that:

- the leadership team have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy under the direct guidance of the DSP for drugs and substance mis-use (RP)
- the DSP will also ensure that a planned drug education programme is provided as part of the curriculum, that enhances knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. This will be delivered chiefly through curriculum subjects such as Science and PSHE as well as assemblies and health awareness days
- teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents. This training is given through whole school training days, pastoral meetings and PHSE resources
- pupils/students are aware of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them through assemblies, PSHE and tutor time
- clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents. (*see final page*)
- those pupils/students who present a concern/have a concern about drugs are provided with support from the DSP and Carol Pickering (PDC) who has also been trained in this area by the Drugswatch Trust
- sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's discipline policy.
- the school actively co-operates with external agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education. (*Reference: Behaviour Management/Exclusion Policy*) Specifically we work with the Warrington Police Drugs Unit and the Drugswatch Trust.

All Teaching and Support staff are expected to:

- report incidents of drug misuse to the appropriate deputy head or DSP. In their absence they should report the matter to a member of the leadership group
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support such as Form Tutor, class teacher, [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) and the Drugs DSP.

All teachers are expected to:

- implement the drug education programme and attend associated training to increase their understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse. This is achieved through pastoral year team meetings, PSHE team meetings and input during whole school Training Days.
- enable pupils/students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes, developing and practising personal skills to resist peer group pressure and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse. This is achieved through classroom teaching and their role as a Form Tutor and PSHE teacher.
- provide accurate information about substances as a result of whole school training day input and specific resources provided for the teaching of PSHE.

Pupils/students will be expected to:

- follow the school rules as explained via assemblies, tutor time and their school planners.
- alert the staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the school site.

Parents will be encouraged to:

- support the school's approach to drugs education
- work in partnership with the school to overcome the misuse of drugs.

We are confident in achieving this as in recent years the school and Drugs DSP have worked in conjunction with the local police, PCSOs and Warrington Police Drugs Unit to deliver after school sessions to parents whose children have been identified as potential drug users. This work has been brought to the attention of the Chief Constable of Cheshire and received his formal praise.

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- the drugs policy is reviewed biannually by the Governing Body Safeguarding Committee
- the school, parents and external agencies work together to support any pupil/student involved in drug abuse
- the governors' Safeguarding Committee understands how to deal with drug-related exclusion procedures and will undertake relevant case management studies.

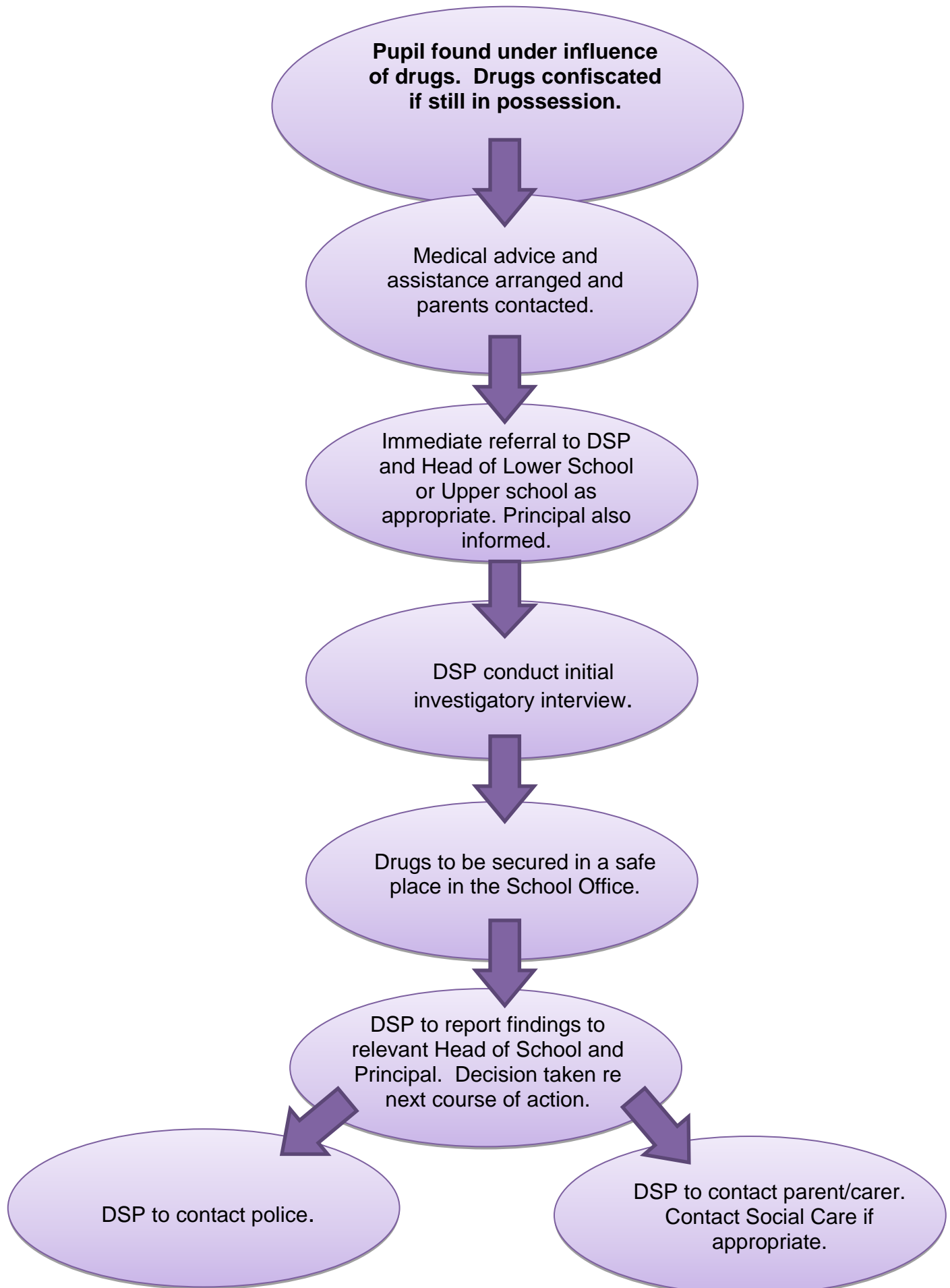
Monitoring and evaluation

The Curriculum and Safeguarding Committees of the Governing Body will

receive an annual report on:

- the curriculum programme for teaching about drugs,
- the number and nature of drug-related incidents, and the outcomes of any disciplinary proceedings. These will be analysed by gender, ethnicity and year group and compared with previous years.

# Initial guidelines for managing a drugs related incident in school



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