



Barking Abbey School
Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy

The Governing Body approved this Statutory Policy:

Review date:

Barking Abbey school aims to foster co-operation within the school community to promote the health and safety of all its members and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.

Policy Aims

Barking Abbey School believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substance use and misuse:

1. To enable pupils to make healthy, well-informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, and developing and practising decision-making skills.
2. To provide accurate information about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substance use.
3. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse.
4. To widen the pupils' understanding about related health and social issues.
5. To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Education

These aims are fulfilled by a programme of health education, which is appropriate to the pupil's age and level of development. This programme will be delivered mainly through PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons but will be reinforced in other parts of the teaching curriculum. The school periodically invites outside speakers to further reinforce its commitment to health education. Members of the teaching and core staff are made aware of issues and policies by whole school INSET.

DRUGS

The School considers that the use of illegal drugs or so-called 'legal highs' is likely to be damaging to a young person's health, safety, independence and respect of the law; and will also damage the integrity of the School community by possibly exposing others to temptation and to the risk of criminal proceedings. It should be noted that the school's definition of drugs includes illegal drugs (those categorised as Class A, B or C).

A programme of education about drugs will involve pupils during their time at the School. The programme will be arranged through the established curriculum, through the PSHE syllabus and through specially invited external speakers.

It is the policy of Barking Abbey School to discourage the use of illegal drugs or 'legal highs'. Any cases of the use or possession by pupils of such substances or of any drugs paraphernalia will be treated as a very serious breach of discipline. Controlled drugs found on a student must be handed as soon as possible to the police by the school.

A pupil becoming involved with drug misuse must expect to be dealt with according to the school's behaviour policy. Where there is reasonable cause for suspicion that a pupil may be involved with drugs, a pupil may be questioned and personal possessions searched. The school has the right to inform the police of the possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal drug, as it constitutes a criminal offence.

ALCOHOL

Pupils are encouraged to adopt a sensible attitude towards alcohol. The effects on health of alcohol and its social implications will be taught and discussed as part of the curriculum, in the Personal, Social and Health Education course, and in tutorials. Alcohol is a prohibited item as outlined in the school's behaviour policy.

SMOKING

Pupils and staff are forbidden to smoke. The effects on health of smoking will be taught and discussed as part of the curriculum, in the Personal, Social and Health Education course, and in tutorials. Tobacco, cigarette papers, e-cigarettes and shisha pens are prohibited as outlined in the school's behaviour policy.