

Rosstulla School
‘Together Towards Tomorrow’
Drugs Policy

Agreed by Governing Body July 2017. To be reviewed June 2018.

Context of School

Rosstulla School caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties, whose ages range from 4 years 6 months to 17 years.

Definition of Drugs

Drugs are any substance (including alcohol, tobacco, over the counter and prescribed medication, ‘legal highs’, volatile substances and controlled drugs) which, when taken, effects the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

The School’s Attitude to Drug Use

We acknowledge that drugs misuse impacts on all communities in Northern Ireland regardless of gender, cultural or social boundaries.

Rosstulla will not tolerate the use of any drugs other than those which are prescribed or administered, with parental consent, by school staff for medical reasons. The following ‘legal’ drugs are not acceptable in school – volatile substances (glue, petrol, gas lighter fuel, correcting fluid etc.) ‘poppers’, magic mushrooms, cannabis, ‘legal highs’ alcohol and cigarettes. Use of any of these or any illicit drugs will result in disciplinary action being taken.

Governors, staff, parents and carers have a duty of care towards all members of the Rosstulla community. Any suspicions of drug or substance misuse should be reported to the designated teacher.

A student who presents in school and appears to be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol will be subject to Appendix 3 of this policy.

Parents/Carers who present in school and appear to be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol will not be permitted to take their son/daughter from school and may be reported to the PSNI if it is considered that the parent/carer may place others at risk or is suspected of being in possession of a ‘controlled drug’

Staff should not present in school under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If it is suspected that a member of staff is under the influence of drugs or alcohol they will not be permitted to take a class and advice may be sought from the North Eastern Region (NER) of the Education Authority (EA). Staff may be reported to the PSNI if it is considered that the staff member may place others at risk or is suspected of being in possession of a controlled drug.

Controlled drugs are identified in Appendix 1.

Designated Teacher for Drugs (for a list of duties see Appendix 2)

Mrs Fryers is the designated teacher. Mrs Sloan is the deputy designated teacher.

The designated teacher should be consulted immediately if there is any suspicion re drug misuse. Staff should not endeavour to ascertain if a substance is a controlled drug.

Procedures for Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

A suspected drugs related incident includes:

- Inappropriate behaviour that may be drug related
- An allegation of a drugs related incident
- Possession of, possession with intent to and/or supply controlled drugs
- Possessing/finding drugs related paraphernalia

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, drug-related incidents will be dealt with as identified in the CEA/ Department of Education 2004 publication 'Drugs: guidance for schools in Northern Ireland' (See appendix 3 of this policy).

Parents/Carers will be expected to support the school in all disciplinary measures taken. The role of school personnel when dealing with drugs related incidents is clearly outlined in the issued guidance.

A copy of the guidance is available for inspection from Mrs Fryers.

The school will work in liaison with the PSNI (who are responsible for investigating suspected drug related incidents in school) and the NER designated officer for drugs.

Smoking on School Premises.

Rosstulla has operated a smoke free policy from 30th April 2007. Staff and visitors to the school are expected to adhere to the policy.

Students are not permitted to smoke during the school day – this includes after school clubs/activities e.g. the school formal, residential, or when attending the learning community.

Management of Solvents in School

Careful consideration will be given to the choice of materials e.g. felt tipped pens, correcting fluid, glue etc. used in the classroom.

Substances used in the cleaning and maintenance of the school will be stored in their original containers, clearly labelled and kept in locked stores when not in use.

Cleaners' trolleys will not be left unattended e.g. in corridors when students are on school premises.

Policy on Administration of Medicines

Available for inspection from Mrs Fryers.

Training of Staff, Parents and Governors in Recognition of Drugs and their Symptoms

All teaching staff and assistants will receive training in the recognition of drugs and their symptoms. This training will be up-dated approximately every 3 years. Training is due in August 2019.

Parents and governors will be invited to attend the training.

Drugs Education

All members of the school community have a role to play in ensuring that drugs education is delivered to students of all ages. Students should be educated in the legal/health implications of substance/drug use and/or possession and supplying to enable them to make an informed choice.

Drugs education is seen as an important aspect of the school's curriculum. Students should be fully educated in the realities of substance/drug abuse in order to protect them from the harm associated with their use and misuse.

Parent/carer engagement is crucial in ensuring the success of drugs education.

Overview of Drugs Education

In Rosstulla, drugs education is part of the PSHE and PD programmes. Much of the teaching will be classroom based, using a variety of active pupil-centred methods. Visiting speakers, with relevant expertise in this area, will, on occasions, contribute to the programme. The programme will be structured to the level and maturity of the students involved.

The programme will be reviewed as part of the planning cycle and changes made if appropriate.

Consultation and Review

Governors, parents and staff were consulted on the policy at a meeting held on 11th April 2016.

The policy is available to all members of the school community and interested parties upon request from either the school or on accessing the school website.

The policy will be reviewed annually in line with all pastoral policies or if a drug related incident has occurred in school.

F. Burke
Principal
July 2017

Appendix 1: Controlled Drugs by Class

	Class A	Class B	Class c
Principal Drugs Included	Opium Heroin/ Methadone Cocaine/Crack LSD Ecstasy Processed Magic Mushrooms Cannabis Oil Class B drugs prepared for injection	Amphetamines e.g. Ritalin Barbiturates Codeine	Mild Amphetamines Anabolic Steroids Benzodiazepines (e.g. Temazepan, Diazepam) Some stimulant anti-depressant and slimming pills Cannabis Resin Cannabis Herb GHB (Gamma hydroxyl butyrate)

Appendix 2: Roles and Responsibilities.

Designated Teacher

The designated teacher is responsible for:

- Oversight and co-ordination of the planning of curricular provision
- Liaison with staff responsible for pastoral care
- Contact point for outside agencies in relation to a drug incident or drugs education
- Overseeing the drugs policy
- Training and induction (with specific reference to this policy) of new staff
- Coordinating procedures of the school's procedures for handling a drug related incident
- Receiving any substances/ paraphernalia found on school premises
- Compiling a factual report for the attention of the principal in relation to the incident
- Liaising with staff and outside agencies Ensuring that adequate numbers of staff are trained in the necessary first-aid skills to cope with an individual under the influence of drugs
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of procedures in relation to drugs incidents

Principal

- Determine the circumstances of all incidents
- Contact parents/carers of student/s involved
- Ensuring close liaison with PSNI
- Welfare of all students
- Handling, storage and safe disposal of any drugs paraphernalia
- Informing Board of Governors and agreeing any pastoral/disciplinary response
- Reporting incident to EA
- If appropriate forwarding a written report to the Board of Governors and EA designated officer

Board of Governors

- Foster and support the development and review of the drugs policy and education programme by collaborating with appropriate staff, students, parents/carers
- Facilitate consultative process on effectiveness and quality of policy
- Examine and approve policy prior to implementation
- Review policy and ensure that it is published
- Full awareness of and training in suspected drug related incidents and appropriate disciplinary response
- Have a designated governor for drugs

Responsibilities of the Drugs Education Co-ordinator

- Ensuring that the curricular aspects of the policy are being implemented and that an appropriate programme of study is being taught throughout the school.
- liaising with staff and with outside agencies in relation to drugs education (outlined in drugs: guidance for schools in Northern Ireland)
- liaise with the 'designated person' regarding the implications which any drug-related incident may have on the school's programme.

Appendix 3: Managing an Incident

Staff Member

- Assess situation and decide action
- Secure first aid and send for additional support staff if necessary
- Make situation safe for all students and staff members
- Carefully gather up any drugs and/or paraphernalia/evidence. Pass all information and evidence to the designated teacher for drugs
- Write a brief factual report of the incident and forward it to the designated teacher.

Designated Teacher for Drugs

- Respond to first aiders guidance
- In the case of an emergency immediately inform parents/carers/next of kin
- Take possession of any evidence found
- Inform Principal
- Take responsibility for students involved in the incident
- Complete an incident report form (Appendix 14 in drugs: guidance for schools document) and forward it to the principal

Principal

- Determine the circumstances surrounding the incident
- Ensure that the following are informed:
Parent/carer/next of kin
Community and Schools Involvement Officer (PSNI) PSNI Tel No: 90650222 Ext 30319
Designated Officer in EA (NER) 25653333 (Schools Branch)
Board of Governors Dr A Preston
- Agree pastoral and disciplinary responses including counselling services and support
- Forward a copy of the incident report form to the chairperson of the Board of Governors and the designated officer in the Education Authority
- Review procedures and amend if necessary

Confidentiality must be observed by all staff members.