TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE- SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE

Townley School and Pre- School does not condone either the misuse of drugs, including smoking and alcohol by members of the school (including staff, pupils and visitors) or the illegal supply of these substances.

The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate children 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 pupil.

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

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances if appropriate (children / parents).
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To enable children to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The policy will:

- provide a framework for developing a consistent approach to working with young people in relation to drugs;
- encourage cross-community and inter-agency approaches to Drug Education;
- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.

These aims are delivered in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHE, Science and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning may occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies including Life Education Bus and subscribes to the PSHE service.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies;

- PSHE
- Safeguarding
- Medical Conditions
- Administration of Medicines
- Equalities Policy Statement
- Behaviour
- Health & Safety

Boundaries and area of jurisdiction:
This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, visitors and partner agencies working in the school. It covers activities on the school site, school visits and on school transport.

Definitions and terminology:
Throughout the policy we use the following definitions:
A drug: Any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves (World Health Organisation). The term embraces medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore, "drug" includes alcohol, tobacco (including e cigarettes/vaping) , volatile substances solvents, aerosols etc.), medicines, legal highs and illegal drugs.

THE ROLES OF THE HEADTEACHER AND GOVERNING BODY

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, Parents, Children and Young Peoples Service and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher and any relevant agencies and if appropriate the police will be notified. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved. All incidents will be recorded.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents.

The Headteacher will ensure staff receive access to appropriate training and advice, such as the PSHE service and our school nurse.

Drugs Education:

Education about drugs is part of the PSHE work taught across the school; it will be supported by visits from the PSHE service Life Bus. Pupils in year 5 and 6 complete the annual Health-Related Behaviour Survey each year. Results of this are analysed and key findings shared where relevant and used to inform future strategic planning.

Management of drugs:

The first concern in managing drugs or drug incidents is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils.

Medicines – See Administration of Medicines Policy.

Tobacco – This school operates a strict no smoking policy in the building and grounds and in any transport being used for school purposes. This policy applies to all users.

Alcohol – If alcohol is authorised at school, for example at a PTA event, the arrangements for storage or use should be agreed and adhered to. It is an offence under the Licensing Act 1964 to sell alcohol without a licence. However, no licence would be needed by the school to offer alcohol at school events where no sale takes place. Any alcohol found in pupils' possession would be confiscated and returned to parents.

Solvents – See Health & Safety Policy.

Illegal substances – The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable.

Drug related incidents can usually be grouped under the following headings:

- Rumours of use or dealing, on or off the premises;
- Actual use or dealing on or off the premises, which may include a first aid response;
- Disclosures of own or others' use from a pupil, parent or other concerned member of the community.

In any response in dealing with drug related incidents, the school's primary concern will be the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole.

The following protocols should be followed:

- All drugs or drugs paraphernalia should be taken to the office and stored in a locked cabinet with restricted access.
- Staff will not conduct searches of pupils or property; where necessary, the police will be called (usually this would be the local Police Community Support Officer, calling 101; in an emergency, dial 999)
- The needs of those involved in any incident should be responded to in line with the school behaviour policy.
- When managing pupils or parents under the influence of substances, refer to the Headteacher.
- Concern over usage or possible usage of illegal or unauthorised drugs by a pupil or parent/carer should be logged on a concern form and passed to the Designated Person for Child Protection.
- Should an incident require the involvement of the Police, the school will work in partnership with the service.

Involvement of parents/carers:

Parents will be informed by the Headteacher of any incident involving drug misuse. Pupils will be made aware of this fact.

Confidentiality:

Information about the use of drugs by pupils or parents/carers will be handled with sensitivity. It will be disclosed only where there is a clear need to share information. However, staff may have to pass on information to fulfil their professional and moral duties in relation to:

- Child protection;
- Co-operating with a police investigation;
- Referral to external services such as drug agencies.