



**Roding Valley**  
HIGH SCHOOL

**Substance Use & Misuse Policy**

Reviewed March 2017  
Approved March 2017



## **Roding Valley High School Substance Use & Misuse Policy**

This policy sets out guidelines and responsibilities relating to substance use and abuse. The policy seeks to ensure:-

- That young people in our school receive common messages about the inappropriateness of substance misuse.
- That substance abuse related incidents are addressed throughout the school in a consistent manner.

This policy links with the school's approach to SMSC and the Child Protection Policy.

Substances referred to herein include:

- TOBACCO (Tobacco & Smoking – see also school rules)
- ALCOHOL
- INHALENTS
- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
- CONTROLLED AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES (e.g. Cannabis, Amphetamines, L.S.D., Ecstasy and other narcotics)

Roding Valley High School is opposed to the misuse of drugs, tobacco and alcohol by members of the school and the illegal supply of these substances.

Roding Valley High School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.

Roding Valley High 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 pupils in need of support to come forward. In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of our care for the welfare of our pupils. Roding Valley High 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 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 cooperation is essential to the successful implementation of the policy.



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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
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the consequences of use and misuse
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. We deliver in the taught curriculum mainly through drop down days as well as Science and English areas but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The School actively cooperates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Care, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

### **THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER AND GOVERNING BODY**

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies and for the Progress Leader, who will have responsibility for keeping records of all incidents. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

### Incident Management

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on school premises and following discussion between staff members who know the pupil well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher or Senior member of staff.

If a young person admits to a member of staff using or supplying substances off the premises the parents will be informed by the Headteacher or senior member of staff.

Roding Valley High School will not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation of any illegal or contraband substances. Where it is suspected that substances are sold on the premises, details regarding those involved and all relevant information will be passed to the police, at the discretion of the Headteacher.



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Incidents are documented and papers are kept on student files by Progress Leaders.

Relevant Internal & External Exclusion processes (Roding Valley High School Behaviour Policy – Part 4) are followed

5. Serious Incidents – Serious incidents normally lead to exclusion. These include; possession or use of drugs on the school site or when taking part in any educational trip, visit or extra curricular activity. This also includes being under the influence of any drug.
8. DFES Guidance on Exclusion from Schools – Fixed term and permanent exclusions are used in line with DFES Guidance. The school will also consult D of E guidance on drugs.

N.B. Each incident is dealt with on an individual basis. Broadly speaking: -

- i. Possession or use, in school uniform, either to or from school or in school is likely to lead to a fixed term exclusion
- ii. Selling, trading or supplying drugs is likely to lead to a permanent exclusion