



Policy Name: National School Misuse of Drugs Policy	
Policy Code:	ED 7
Approved in:	January 2011
Next Review in:	January 2016
Cross References: This policy should be cross-referenced with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision – ESAU</i>• <i>Cayman Islands National Curriculum</i>• <i>Cayman Islands Special Educational Needs Code of Practice</i>• <i>National Policy on School Discipline and Student Behaviour</i>• <i>National Anti-Drug Strategy 2009-2013 –National Drug Council</i>• <i>Misuse of Drugs Act (2009 Revision)</i> Guidance documents produced by the Ministry of Education, Training & Employment, (The Ministry): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Guidance on Developing a School Discipline and Student Behaviour Policy</i>• <i>Guidance on the Suspension of Students from School</i>	

Drugs – A Definition

‘A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.’
(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

This includes:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act - 2009 revision) e.g. cannabis, heroin, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy and amphetamines.
- All legal drugs including alcohol and tobacco.
- All over the counter and prescription medicines.

The Ministry recognises that all drugs have the potential to harm; but some drugs are more harmful than others. We also recognise that for a small number of students, drugs can have a significant impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

The Ministry believes that all children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. Central to our policy on drugs is the belief that schools play a critical role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing their 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.



AIMS:

Schools, alongside parents/guardians and the range of agencies working with children, young people and their families, have an important role to play in the delivery of the Ministry's Policy on illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The National School Misuse of Drugs Policy aims to reduce the harm that illegal drugs cause to society and to prevent today's young people from becoming tomorrow's problematic drug users. The policy proposes an expansion of provision and improvement in the quality of drug education. The Ministry advocates the following provisions;

- The implementation of an interagency Drug Action Group (DAG), to include representatives from Education, Health, DCFS, RCIPS, Juvenile Justice, NDC, FSU, CAYS and the Department of Counselling Services. This strategic body would be responsible for co-ordinating the drug policy at a local level.
- The DES are strategic partners within the DAG and they should be fully involved in planning and commissioning services so that the needs of our students are addressed across a local model that is based on international good practice.
- DES along with their DAG partners should plan how to resource drug education in schools.

POLICY STATEMENT:

All students have a right to

- Be taught in environments that are safe, conducive to learning and free from the misuse of drugs.
- Be aware of and expect appropriate action from school staff according to the school's drug and disciplinary procedures.

All schools have a responsibility to plan and teach a programme of drug education.

- When planning and implementing drug education, both Primary and Secondary Schools need to take account of a student's existing knowledge and understanding. Other factors to consider include trends in local drug use and the diversity of students, as well as their attainment levels.
- All programmes should be age appropriate and relevant to the Cayman Islands.
- Particular attention should be given to drug education for students who are vulnerable to drug misuse, including those at risk of suspension and those suspended from school, to ensure that their specific needs are addressed.
- Teaching in drug education is to be conducted at the same high standards as for other subjects and focus in particular on establishing a supportive learning environment and using active and participatory teaching methods
- Teachers will be trained to be the main providers of drug education. External contributors, if used, should be involved in a planned way, and where they can add value to the school's programme



- Schools will appoint a designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all drug related issues within the school.
- Secondary schools will establish specialist teams of teachers to teach drug education. Teachers of drug education need access to a range of high-quality support and continuing professional development opportunities.
- Parents/Guardians will be given information about their child's drug education and have opportunities to become involved in planning and developing the drug policy and education programme.
- Schools should ensure that students have access to up-to-date information about sources of help and advice.
- Schools should offer basic drug education training to their Parents/Guardians throughout the school term
- Parents/Guardians whose child(ren) has tested positive or caught dealing drugs should be mandated to attend a programme as part of the intervention, such as a Parent drug education session.

All schools have a responsibility for the good management of drugs within the school.

- **The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable.** All schools must have agreed responses and procedures for managing drug incidents, which are understood by all and documented within the school drug policy.
- Schools should clearly define the limits of their boundaries and what constitutes a drug incident.
- Schools should be aware that some students are more vulnerable to drug use, misuse, abuse and its social related problems. Ensuring that these students are identified and receive appropriate support through the curriculum, the pastoral system or referral to other services should be a priority for all schools.
- Schools and RCIPS/FSU will work closely together to establish an agreed policy which clarifies roles and mutual expectations before incidents occur.
- All Schools are required to have in place agreed procedures for taking possession of and disposing of illegal and other unauthorised drugs. In the case of illegal drugs, schools should, without delay, notify the police, who will collect and then store or dispose of them in line with locally agreed protocols
- The procedures for and circumstances where searches may be considered appropriate should be made explicit in the school drug policy. It is **not appropriate** for an individual member of staff to carry out a personal search.

All schools have a responsibility for responding appropriately to drug incidents.

- For any drug incident, the utmost priority should be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help.
- Schools should develop a range of responses to drug incidents. Any response should balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and should be determined after a full and careful investigation.
- Clear referral protocols and communication routes are to be established between schools and the range of agencies providing support to their students. In making referrals careful attention should be given to issues of confidentiality.



- In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs schools are advised to involve the student's parents/guardians, unless this would jeopardise the student's safety.
- Schools should make a full record of every incident.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ministry of Education, Training & Employment will

- Establish educational policy and supporting guidance documents.
- Set national targets for improvement.
- Support the Department of Education Services (DES) to achieve the effective implementation and maintenance of individual school policies on drugs.
- Work with other ministries and agencies to facilitate an intersectoral/multidisciplinary approach for supporting interventions, parental and community awareness and education.
- Mandate via the National Curriculum an agreed drug education programme.
- Develop implementation guidelines to assist in a streamlined and effective manner of policy development and implementation.

The Education Standards and Assessment Unit will

- Evaluate the effectiveness of provision and practice for drug education within schools.
- Make recommendations for improvement.
- To evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the policy implementation in order to inform policy decisions.

The Department of Education Services (DES) will

- Review and make recommendations to the Ministry on approval of school level policies.
- Ensure that relevant data is collected, maintained and reported by schools in a timely, consistent and accurate manner.
- Carry out analysis of data to track developments and report on progress within and across schools.
- Support school leadership teams in evaluating drug statistics so that priorities for improvement can be identified.
- Provide required support to enable schools to meet improvement targets.
- Maintain a database of all school policies and ensure they are reviewed on a timely basis.
- Work collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to develop and maintain appropriate systems for supporting school initiatives, protocols and initiatives surrounding drugs.

School leaders will

- Facilitate the development of their individual school's Misuse of Drugs Policy within the timelines set out by the Ministry and DES.



- Communicate the policy and outline the expectations to teachers, students, parents and other key stakeholders
- Ensure the effective implementation of the school drug policy and assess its impact on provision and practice.
- Monitor and review provision and practice in their schools.
- Facilitate ongoing professional development as needed.
- Be accountable to the DES for reducing the misuse of drugs within their schools.

School staff will

- Effectively implement the school's drug policy.
- Use the National Curriculum, the Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision and the Ministry's supporting guidance documents to assist their planning and practice.

SCHOOL POLICIES ON DRUGS:

All schools are expected to have a policy which sets out roles and responsibilities in relation to all drug matters. The School Drug Policy must:

- Be based on the National Policy and the Ministry's supporting guidance documents.
- Be developed, implemented and reviewed in consultation with the whole school community including staff, students, parents/guardians and partner agencies.
- Be widely disseminated, readily accessible and updated bi-annually. Clear links to other related policies need to be identified.
- Be approved by The Ministry, The Department of Education Services / School Improvement Officers in consultation with the Education Standards and Assessment Unit before implementation.

The purpose of the School Drug Policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, parents/guardians, external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to national strategies.
- Provide support to and for the development and implementation of drug education programmes within the school system, with the aim of assisting positive life changes.