

## Loughries Integrated Primary School

### DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

#### **Mission Statement**

Loughries Integrated Primary School fosters a nurturing environment which encourages, supports, develops and challenges each child to reach their full potential. We endeavour to equip our pupils with the skills and qualities needed to work together for a shared future.

#### **1. Introduction**

The school Drugs Policy is a statutory document, in accordance with Drugs: Guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland 2004. The policy follows the guidance given in the EA South Eastern Region Drug Policy Document.

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

##### **1.1 Rationale**

Loughries Integrated Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture which exists.

Young children are exposed to messages about drug use from an early age. The messages they receive from television and the media tend to glamorise the use of drugs. They are likely to have seen parents or older brothers and sisters smoking, drinking or taking pills and medicines. Some children may have already tried alcohol or cigarettes and taken prescribed medicines or other drugs. Inevitably older children want to pass on their knowledge and experiences in an effort to try to influence younger children; these experiences are likely to include their experimentation with drugs.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; we aim to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Research cites personal inadequacy, a lack of self-esteem and peer pressure as the main reasons for drug misuse among young people. This places a responsibility on the school to 'better prepare young people for adult life.' (Education Reform (NI) Order 1989)

Drugs Education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

## 1.2 DRUGS EDUCATION IN CONTEXT.

'A drugs education programme is just one part of a whole school response to drug misuse. It should provide opportunities for pupils to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others, and to make informed and responsible choices within the context of a healthy lifestyle' (Drugs: Guidance for Schools in NI 2004)

The programme of education is integrated within the Personal Development Strand of the Curriculum. A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential and within the programme, pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

In conjunction with this, the Pastoral Care system offers pupils the opportunity to discuss any drug related problems they may have and they are informed that confidentiality cannot always be guaranteed.

Drugs Education is included specifically within the "Health, Growth and Change" programmes of study for PDMU. It is also found within other subjects such as The World Around Us, English, Religious Education and Physical Education, where there are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from different perspectives.

## 2 THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

### **AIMS**

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health

- To develop self-discipline and self-respect
- To build pupils' self-esteem
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals

## **OBJECTIVES**

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse
- Develop self-discipline
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'
- Understand how some drugs affect the body
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns

These objectives are closely linked with our school policy on Pastoral Care and they should not be seen in isolation.

## **3. THE RANGE OF SUBSTANCES.**

Loughries Integrated Primary School's policy on Drugs Education covers any substance under the DENI definition. (CCEA 2004):-

"A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco

- "over- the- counter medicines" such as paracetamol for headaches, prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquillisers
- volatile drugs such as glues and aerosols
- illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy
- other substances such as amyl / butyl nitrate ("popper") and magic mushrooms

The school recognises that the procedures within this policy focus mainly on illicit drugs. However the aims and objectives of the Programmes of Study focus on educating our pupils to make good and healthy life choices.

Procedures for handling the misuse of alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and prescribed medicines are outlined in Appendix 1. This policy does not exist in isolation. Associated policies are The Administration of Medicines, Child Protection and Positive Behaviour Policy.

#### **4. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS.**

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of Staff should:

- Send for support
- Make the situation safe
- Administer First Aid if necessary
- If a drug is found, gloves should be used and it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the PSNI
- Report the incident

*(Members of Staff are not permitted to search pupils' clothing or possessions. However, it is acceptable to ask the pupil to empty pockets and school bags. Staff may search school property such as under the desks.)*

The incident will be reported to the Principal (Mrs. Thompson), who will contact the Community and Schools Involvement officer (CSIO) from the Police in the area. The parents of those pupils involved will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The teacher who reported the incident and the Designated Teacher will complete a "Record of Action" form. One copy will be sent to the EA South Eastern Region Designated Officer for Drug Education (Kim Scott), and a copy will be retained for the school's confidential file. The Board of Governors will also be informed.

All members of staff are made aware of these procedures, which follow the guidelines issued by CCEA Drugs: Guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland 2004. They are also made aware of their responsibilities under the law outlined in Appendix 2

#### 4.1 PROCEDURES RELATING TO DISCIPLINE.

Procedures will be carried out in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy.

The Principal will be responsible for deciding how to respond to particular incidents as they occur. She will take into account all the factors associated with each separate incident, such as the age of the pupil concerned, whether the incident involved one pupil or a group of pupils, whether there has been evidence of particular peer group pressure and whether it is a first offence. Loughries Integrated Primary School is committed to tackling drug misuse and any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness. Whilst it is not appropriate to prescribe specific sanctions, the decision rests with the Principal who will respond appropriately incorporating sanctions which may include suspension or, in extreme cases, expulsion. External counselling will be offered if appropriate.

#### 4.2 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

For the purposes of this policy, an emergency is considered to be either:

- A situation in which a pupil or member of Staff is in danger, or
- A sequence of events, which requires urgent attention

A flow chart for dealing with incidents is contained in Appendix 3 of this policy. The procedure for dealing with emergencies is contained in Appendix 4.

#### **4.3 CONFIDENTIALITY.**

Confidentiality is of primary importance to those who work professionally with young people in a trusting environment. However, where a pupil makes a drug related disclosure to a teacher, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality.

#### **4.4 DEALING WITH THE MEDIA.**

If the school receives an enquiry from the media, the caller should be referred only to the Principal.

When responding to the media, the privacy of the pupil should be respected; only short, factual statements should be given and the concluding statement should be positive and reassuring. No further statement should be given. Callers should be referred to the Education Authority for further comment.

### **5. THE DELIVERY AND ORGANISATION OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME.**

Drugs Education is a whole school issue. Where possible, Staff receive In-service training on drug issues and are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to the policy. It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to include Drugs Education in other subject areas if it

forms part of the NI Curriculum. Areas of Study for Drugs Education can be found in Appendix 5.

### **5.1 RESOURCES.**

The main resources used for the delivery of this programme are listed in Appendix 6.

### **5. 2 OUTSIDE AGENCIES.**

Loughries Integrated Primary School may use outside agencies to help deliver the Drug Education programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy
- The Principal has given their approval for the use of the outside agency
- The members of Staff from the agency have been vetted in relation to Child Protection as necessary

## **6. LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE.**

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse and so should be involved in the education of their child. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks and should be aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

Loughries Integrated Primary School has developed good working relationships with the local Police. This helps to ensure that if a drug related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

## **7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

The Designated Teacher for Drugs is Miss Campbell. Her role includes:

- Ensuring that all Staff and parents are aware of and have access to a copy of the policy
- Ensuring that the Programme of Study is being taught effectively
- Liaising with Staff on Drug Education matters, for curriculum purposes
- Organising training for Staff as appropriate
- Liaising with outside agencies for curriculum purposes
- Implementing procedures for dealing with an incident as outlined in this policy
- Receiving any substance and associated paraphernalia found in school
- Liaising with the Principal on any drug related incident
- Updating Staff on the policy and procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- Induction of new Staff as appropriate

### **PRINCIPAL**

It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that correct procedure is followed if a drug incident occurs. Her role includes:-

- Determining the circumstances surrounding incidents
- Liaising with the PSNI
- Ensuring pupils' welfare
- Handling, storage and safe disposal of any drug/drugs related paraphernalia
- Liaising with the EA and the Board of Governors
- Ensuring the completion of a written report and forwarding it to the Board of Governors and EA
- Contacting parent/guardian of pupil/s involved

## **THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

School Governors have responsibility for their individual school and foster and support development and on-going review of the policy and Education Programme. Their role includes:-

- Approving the school policy
- Ensuring the policy is available for parents
- Ensuring the policy is reviewed at regular intervals
- Appointing a Governor who is trained to deal with suspected Child Protection incidents including those related to drugs

### **Parents/Guardians**

- Support the school in the development and implementation of this policy
- Support your son/daughter if they have become involved with drugs

## **8. MONITORING AND EVALUATING.**

The Programmes of Study are reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

The policy is on the agenda of Staff meetings when necessary and is reviewed regularly. The policy is available to parents.

Ratified by Board of Governors

Date: June 2016

## APPENDIX 1.

### PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ALCOHOL MISUSE.

- The school premises are an alcohol free zone. The school does not allow any alcohol to be brought onto or consumed in school premises
- Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the Principal directly
- Pupils will be dealt with under the school's Positive Behaviour Policy

### PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING TOBACCO MISUSE.

- The school is a restricted environment with no one being permitted to smoke on the premises
- Adults breaking this rule will be advised by other members of Staff.
- Pupils breaking this rule will be dealt with under the school's Positive Behaviour Policy

### THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES.

At the start of the school year, parents receive a Medicine Administration form. In certain circumstances, and at the discretion of the Principal, the school may agree, with parental permission, to administer medicines.

If a child needs to bring a prescribed medicine into school, the guidelines outlined in the school policy on "Administration of Medicines in School" must be adhered to.

### THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENTS.

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvents or dangerous substances into school. Pupils are permitted to bring felt tip pens to school.

## **APPENDIX 2.**

### **THE LAW IN NORTHERN IRELAND.**

All members of Staff should be aware of their responsibilities under the law. The law in Northern Ireland differs in certain aspects from elsewhere in the U.K. The relevant pieces of legislation are "The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967, and the Powers of Arrest - Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

If the Principal has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on the school premises, she will inform the police immediately in order to avoid any liability as a "manager or occupier" of the premises.

If members of Staff have taken possession of a substance for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing an offence, they should under no circumstance try to analyse or identify it. If they suspect it to be LSD, they should wear gloves to avoid absorption through the skin when handling it. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place and the police contacted.

### **MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971.**

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- i. to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act;
- ii. to be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it, he took all steps as were reasonably open to him to destroy the drug or

to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it;

- iii. for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis: or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug.

**The offences listed above are arrestable offences.**

**Section 8.** A person commits an offence if, being the occupier or concerned in the management of any premises, he knowingly permits or suffers any of the following activities to take place on those premises, that is to say:

- (a) producing or attempting to produce a controlled drug in contravention of section 4 (1) of this Act;
- (b) supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of section 4 (1) of this Act;
- (c) preparing opium for smoking;
- (d) smoking cannabis resin or prepared opium.

## **CRIMINAL LAW ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND)**

**Section 5.** Failing to give information. Where a person has committed an arrestable offence, it shall be the duty of every other person who knows or believes:

- (i) that the offence or some other arrestable offence has been committed; and
- (ii) that he has information which is likely to secure, or to be of material assistance in securing, the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of any person for that offence;

To give that information, within a reasonable time, to a Constable and if, without reasonable excuse, he fails to do so then that person is committing an offence.

This places the onus on individuals to inform a Constable.

## **POWERS OF ARREST- POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1989.**

**Article. 26(4)** - Any person may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he with reasonable grounds suspects to be, guilty of the offence.

**Article. 26(5)** - Where an arrestable offence has been committed, **any person** may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he with reasonable grounds suspects to be, guilty of the offence.

These powers of arrest are available to non-police and, as the following drug offences fall within the definition of Arrestable Offence, are available for use in such circumstances.

(1) Possession of Controlled Drugs

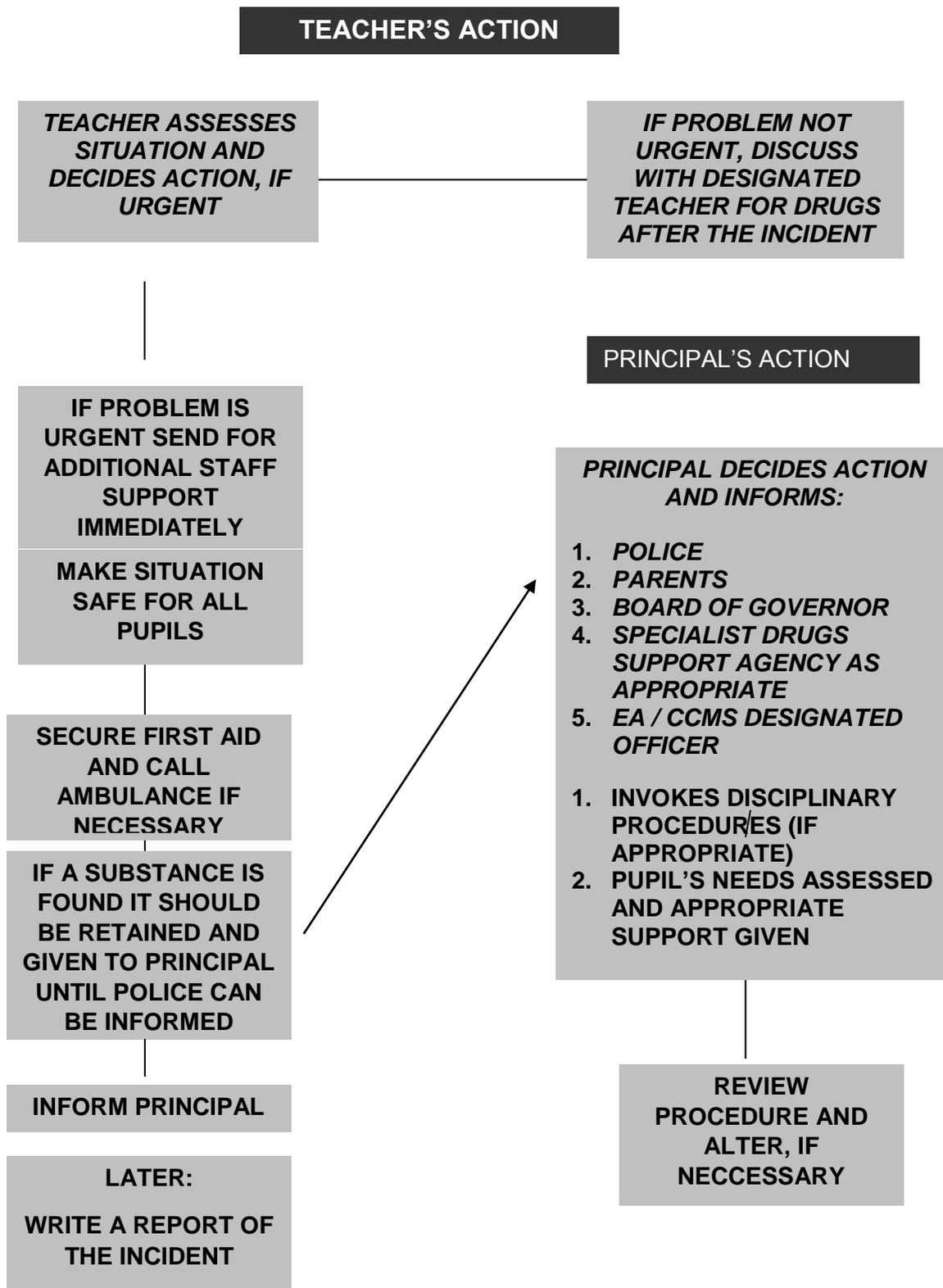
(2) Possession of Controlled Drugs with Intent to Supply

(3) Supply of Controlled Drugs

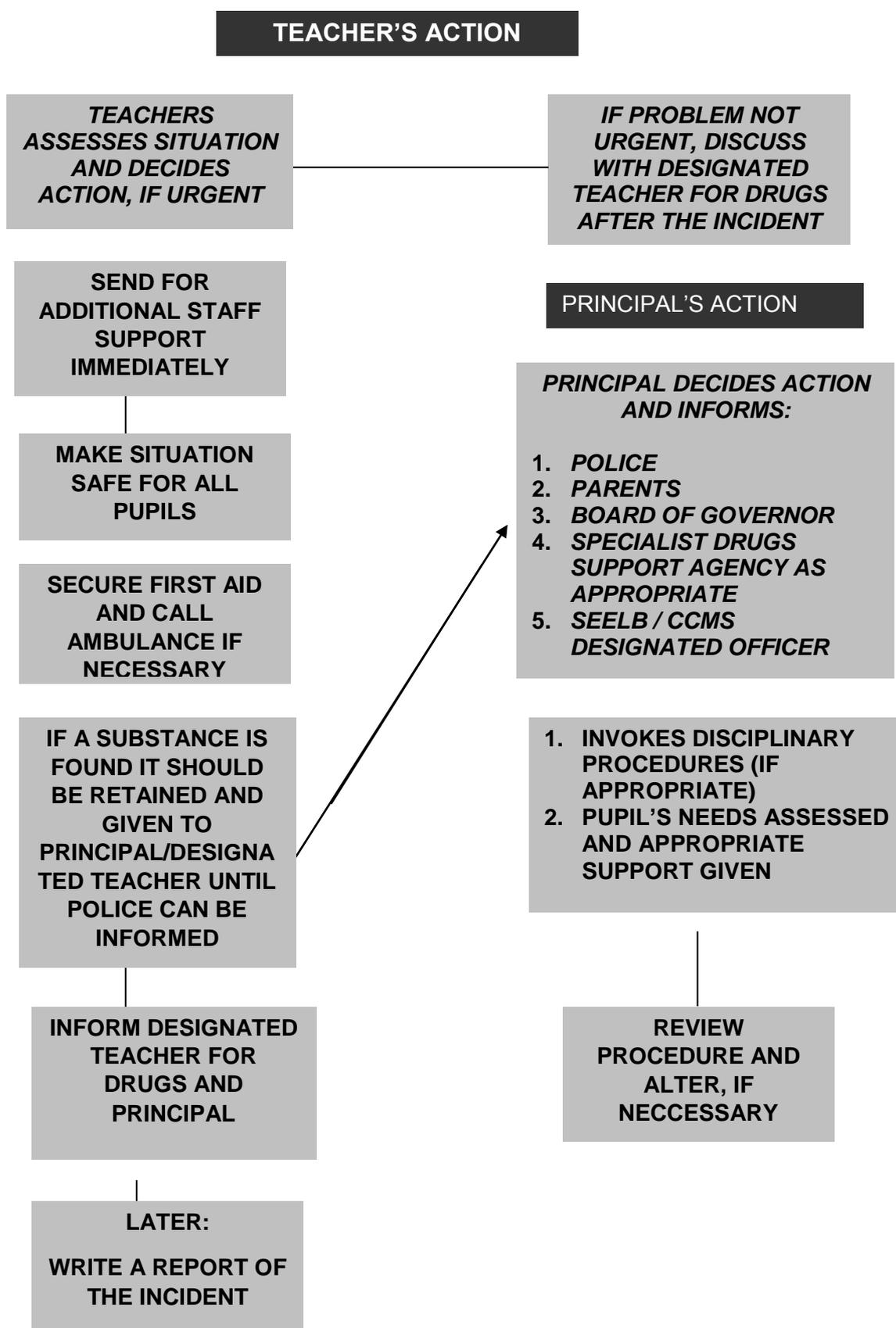
**NB:** The above information is advisory only and does not represent legal opinion.

### APPENDIX 3 - HANDLING INCIDENTS

Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse where the Designated Teacher for drug issues is the Principal:



Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse where the Designated Teacher for drug issues is not the Principal:



## **Managing an Incident - Summary**

Actions by members of Staff in the event of a suspected drugs-related incident:

### **1 Individual Staff Member**

- Assess situation and decide action
- Secure First Aid and send for additional Staff support if necessary
- Make situation safe for all pupils and other members of Staff
- Carefully gather up any drugs and/or associated paraphernalia/evidence. Pass all information/evidence to the Designated Teacher for drugs; and
- Write a brief factual report of the incident and forward it to the Designated Teacher for drugs

### **2 Designated Teacher for Drugs**

- Respond to First Aider's advice/recommendations regarding the incident
- In the case of an emergency inform parents/guardians immediately
- Take possession of any substance(s) and associated paraphernalia found
- Inform Principal
- Take initial responsibility for pupil(s) involved in suspected incident

- Complete an Incident Report form (see Appendix 7) and forward it to the Principal.

### **3 Principal**

- Determine the circumstances surrounding the incident
- Ensure that the following people are informed where relevant:
  - Parents/guardians
  - Community and Schools Involvement Officer (CSIO)
  - Board of Governors
  - Designated Officer in EA
- Agree pastoral and disciplinary responses including counselling services/support
- Forward a copy of the Incident Report form to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors and the Designated Officer within the EA if appropriate
- Review procedures and amend, if necessary

## **APPENDIX 4 - EMERGENCY FIRST AID**

*The school's trained First Aider is:*

*Miss Miller*

*Emergency Action for all members of the school community:*

*In the event of finding someone collapsed and unconscious, summon help and follow these procedures until help arrives:*

- 1. Check that the mouth is free of obstruction and the airway clear.*
- 2. If necessary pull the tongue forward.*
- 3. Loosen clothing at the neck-line.*
- 4. Place the person in the Recovery Position with the head forward.*
- 5. Check for chest movement and colour of face, lips and tongue; if these begin to turn blue, a person qualified in First Aid should resuscitate.*

CONFIDENTIAL

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY**  
**SOUTH EASTERN REGION**

**RECORD OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENT  
LOUGHRIES INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

LIMITED ACCESS ONLY



1. Name of Pupil / Young person \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of Incident \_\_\_\_\_ Reported by \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Incident \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Incident \_\_\_\_\_

3. First Aid given YES / NO Administered by \_\_\_\_\_

Ambulance/Doctor Called YES / NO Time of Call \_\_\_\_\_

4. Parent Informed YES / NO Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

5. Where sample retained \_\_\_\_\_ or

Date Sample Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

6. Police Informed YES / NO Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

7. EA South Eastern Region Drug Education Officer Informed YES / NO Date \_\_\_\_\_

8. Form completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Countersigned by School Principal/EA Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Please retain one copy for your confidential file  
and return the original to:

**Designated Officer – Drug Education  
Education Authority  
South Eastern Region  
Grahamsbridge Road  
BELFAST  
BT16 2HS**

**Tel No: 028 9056 6407**

**Fax No: 028 90485309**

