

Dear Parent/ Carer

Drug misuse, illegal substances and protecting students

You may be aware of increasing concerns in Hampshire about drugs misuse and the way in which criminals in organisations like County Lines are exploiting and abusing youngsters in our communities. As a group of local schools, we review our safeguarding practices regularly. Part of our education and awareness package about drugs for young people includes conducting regular drugs searches. This is a proactive step to ensure that the menace of drugs trading, exploitation and dependency is not brought onto school site, which in turn, supports the wider community.

We have arranged for visits from trained dogs with handlers, who will be accompanied by members of the local police force. These visits will take place at some point this term and have already taken place in some of our local schools. You will appreciate that it would be counter-productive to publish the dates of any visits in advance. I would like to reassure you that if the animal takes an interest in any young person or adult on site, the matter will be dealt with discretely, out of the sight and hearing of others. Senior staff will be in attendance at all times. An interest shown by a trained animal does not necessarily mean that there is a problem, but it will need investigating. Police presence means that follow-up can take place rapidly.

This is part of our education and drugs prevention policy and is intended to be an element in the learning process, not threatening or anxiety-inducing. We understand that the sight of trained dogs and police in a school can be enough to deter people outside from thinking that students are easy prey. It is a practical and visual deterrent.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep all students safe from drugs.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Pennington-Chick
Senior Deputy Headteacher

If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.

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