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# Drugs Education Policy



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Alyson Carson

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Adopted by Governors on:	Signed:  CHAIR	Signed:  PRINCIPAL
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## DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 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 Drug Policy Document.

1.2 Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. While in our care, we have a responsibility for every child's health and safety along with their social, emotional and physical wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

1.3 The policy provides a focus for school to consider how drug education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues. The policy should form an integral part of the PDMU strand in the Primary Curriculum.

### 2.0 RATIONALE

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

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

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

2.4 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)

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

### **3.0 DRUGS EDUCATION IN CONTEXT**

3.1 '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)

3.2 The programme of education is integrated within the PDMU 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.

3.3 In the Northern Ireland Curriculum, Personal Development will form part of the Statutory Core Curriculum. Drugs education is specifically included within Health, Growth and Change in the Primary Curriculum.

### **4.0 THE RANGE OF SUBSTANCES**

4.1 The 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 the body works or 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 anti biotics and tranquilisers
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy
- Other substances such as amyl, butyl (poppers), and magic mushrooms

4.2 Procedures for handling alcohol and tobacco misuse and for handling prescribed medicines and volatile substances are outlined in Appendix I.

4.3 This policy compliments the school's Health and Safety and Child Protection policies. It does not exist in isolation.

### **5.0 PROCEDURES**

#### **5.1 PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS**

5.1.1 A suspected drugs related incident is described as:

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

5.1.2 When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- 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

5.1.3 The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Designated Teacher (Miss A Carson) and then to the Principal (Mrs R Bishop), who will contact the PSNI. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the Designated Teacher. A 'Record of Action' form will be filled out. One copy will be sent to the EA Designated Officer for Drugs Education, and a copy will be retained for the school's confidential file. The Board of Governors will also be informed.

5.1.4 All staff are made aware of the procedure, which follow the guidelines issued by CCEA Drugs: Guidance for Schools Northern Ireland 2004. This is outlined in Appendix 3.

5.1.5 School staff are not permitted to search pupils' clothing or possessions. Staff may search school property such as lockers or desks. However, personal belongings within a desk or locker cannot be searched with consent. Search of pupils' personal belongings including school bag, coat or other items should only be made with the pupil's consent. Such a search should be made in the presence of the pupil and another adult witness. It is acceptable to ask the pupil to empty pockets and school bags.

## **5.2 PROCEDURES RELATING TO DISCIPLINE AND COUNSELLING**

5.2.1 The Principal will be responsible for deciding how to respond to particular incidents as they occur. They 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 or whether it's a first offence.

Bloomfield 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. Counselling will be offered if appropriate.

## **5.3. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

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

- A situation in which a pupil or staff member is in danger, or
- A sequence of events which require urgent attention (Appendix 3)
- Emergency first aid and procedures (Appendix 5)

## **5.4 CONFIDENTIALITY**

The spirit of confidentiality is of primary importance to those who work professionally with young people in a trusting and secure environment. However the legal requirements of drug legislation will mean that in certain circumstance there will be a change in the convention of confidentiality. The

Children (NI) Order (1995) makes it clear that the welfare of the young person is paramount and therefore confidentiality must be included.

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that they are taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that they can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should be encouraged to talk to their parents.

## **5.5 DEALING WITH THE MEDIA**

5.5.1 If the school receives an enquiry from the media, the caller will be referred only to the Principal or in their absence the Vice Principal.

5.5.2 When responding to the media, the privacy of the pupil will be respected and advice sought from the EA.

## **6.0 DRUGS EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM**

6.1 Drugs education is not taught in isolation. It is a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drugs education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

6.2 In Northern Ireland, at all Key Stage, the statutory curriculum for pupils includes the Personal Development strand. There will be opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances; their effects on health and lifestyle.

6.3 Drugs education is specifically included within the area of PDMU, The World Around Us and within other subjects, such as Religious Education. Literacy and Physical Education there are opportunities for considering drug related issues from a variety of perspectives.

### **6.1 AIMS**

The school's drugs education programme is grounded in the Personal Development and the enhancement of protective factors. The aims are:

- 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 understand how they can influence their peers
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals

### **6.2 OBJECTIVES**

Drug 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 a healthy lifestyle
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaign

### **6.3 DELIVERY AND ORGANISATION**

6.3.1 Drugs education is a whole staff issue. Bloomfield Primary School ensures that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to policy, which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum.

6.3.2 The Designated Teacher and PDMU Co-ordinator will ensure that the appropriate themes are covered under Personal Development for each year group. It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to include drugs education in other subject areas if it forms part of the NI Curriculum, and to spend an adequate amount of time delivering drugs education.

### **6.4 OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

6.4.1 Bloomfield Primary School may use outside agencies to help deliver the drug education programme providing 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 staff from the agency have been vetted in relation to Child Protection
- The agency is familiar with the school's drug policy and is prepared to adhere to it
- The resources used are appropriate to the age range and maturity of the pupils
- The visits to the school are clear that confidentiality cannot be maintained and any disclosure which might suggest that a pupil is at risk must be passed on to the Designated Teacher
- The teacher will always be present when a visitor to the school is taking a class
- Outside agencies will be asked to complete the External Agencies form (Appendix 4)

### **7.0 LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE PSNI**

7.1 Parents will be informed when external agencies are being used to address drugs related issues and are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks and discuss drug related issues with their child whenever possible. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

7.2 The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents.

7.3 Bloomfield 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 within a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping with the best interests of the child involved.

7.4 The PSNI offer advice and support when it is needed.

## **8.0 ROLES**

### **8.1 THE DESIGNATED TEACHER**

8.1.1 Miss A Carson is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. Her role includes:

- Oversight of co-ordination of planning of curricular provision (with PDMU Co-ordinator)
- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance and associated paraphernalia found in school
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- Liaison with the Principal on any drug related incident
- Liaison with other members of the Safeguarding Team
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents
- The induction of new staff and training of existing staff as appropriate
- Reviewing and updating the school policy when required
- Completing an incident report form

### **8.2 THE PRINCIPAL**

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

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

### **8.3 THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

School governors have the responsibility for their school to foster and support the development and on-going review of the policy and education programme. Their role includes:

- Facilitation of the consultative process whereby the school community can respond and contribute to the effectiveness and quality of the policy and programme which they examine and approve prior to implementation in the school;
- Ensuring the policy is published on the school website
- Ensuring that the policy is reviewed regularly

## **9.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATING**

The school Drugs Education Policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances and trends on drug use. The programmes of study for drugs education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

The policy is available to parents upon request.

The policy can be accessed on the school website.

## **10.0 LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES**

Child Protection

Pastoral Care

Health and Safety

First Aid

Administration of Medicines

PDMU

The World Around Us

Physical Education

## **11.0 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Procedures for Handling Alcohol, Tobacco, Prescribed Medicines and Volatile Substances

Appendix 2 – The Law in Northern Ireland

Appendix 3 – Handling Incidents

Appendix 4 – Exemplar Form When Using External Agencies

Appendix 5 – Record of Drug Related Incident Sheet

## **APPENDIX I**

### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING 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. This applies to visitors, staff parents and pupils. Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the Principal directly. Pupils will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING TOBACCO MISUSE**

The school is a no smoking environment with no one being permitted to smoke on the school premises. This also includes e-cigarettes. Adults breaking this rule will be advised by other members of staff. Pupils breaking this rule will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

### **THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES**

This is very clearly defined in the Administration of Medicines Policy.

### **THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENTS**

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvents or aerosols into school. This includes tippex fluid and pens, tippex thinners, glue, marker pens and spray deodorants. Pupils *are* permitted to bring felt tip pens to school.

All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and usage of solvents in their classroom. The cleaners and caretakers should also ensure that their stores are locked when not in use and that solvents are held in a secure place.

## APPENDIX 2 - THE LAW IN NORTHERN IRELAND

All staff are aware of their responsibilities under the law. The law in Northern Ireland differs in certain aspects from elsewhere in the UK. 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.

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

If staff have taken possession of a substance for the purposes 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 when handling it, to avoid ingestion through the skin. 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 to 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 such 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 or offering 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) 1967

**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 an onus on individuals to inform a constable.

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

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

**Art 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

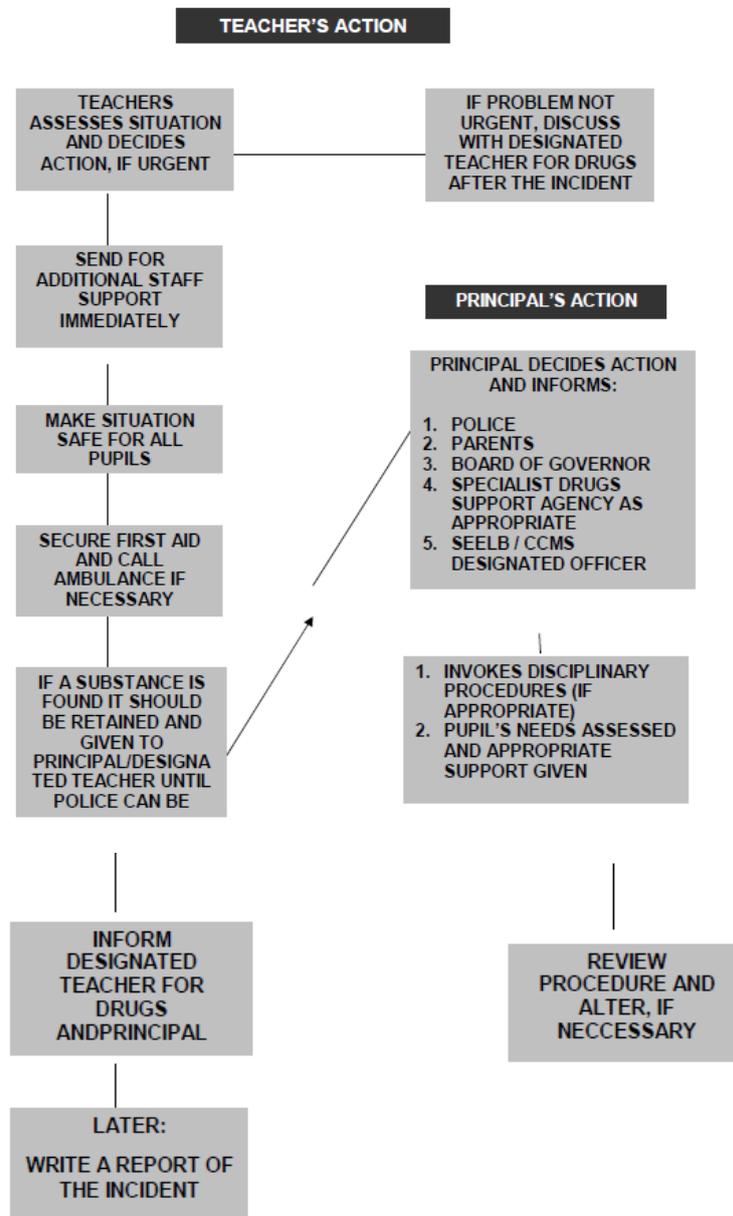
**(2)** Possession of Controlled Drugs with Intent to Supply

**(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 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

- Respond to first aiders 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; and
- 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 ELB/CCMS.
- 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 Education Authority and CCMS if appropriate; and
- Review procedures and amend, if necessary.

### EMERGENCY FIRST AID

The school's trained first aiders are:

**Mrs P Connelly, Mrs L Gordon, Mrs E Taylor, Miss S Watterson, Mrs K Carnduff, Mrs J Embleton, Miss A Carson, Mrs J Orr, Mrs H Elliott, Mrs A Goudy, Mrs A McClune, Mr M Magee**

## Appendix 4 - Exemplar Form when using External Agencies Drugs Education Programme – External Agency

School: Agency:  
Principal: Agency contact:  
Contact Teacher: Tel No:  
Tel No: Fax No:  
Fax No: E-mail:  
E-mail:

### Agreed Aims

- 
- 
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### Sessions to be Delivered

- Date(s):
- Times(s):

### Audience

Number of participants:

Type of group (age, ability, etc)

### Methodology

(Brief description of programme content and methods)

### Intended Learning Outcomes

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### Evaluation

(Brief description of how this will be conducted and reported)

Signed (Contact Teacher/Principal)

Signed: (Agency contact)

Date:

Appendix 5 - **RECORD OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENT**

**RECORD OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENT**

**LIMITED ACCESS ONLY**  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT AND ACTION TAKEN**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Drug Involved (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Sample Found YES / NO

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

By whom \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

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

By \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Station / Officer \_\_\_\_\_

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

Time \_\_\_\_\_ By whom \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Designated Officer – Drug Education**

**Education Authority**

**Grahamsbridge Road**

**BELFAST**

**BT16 2HS**

**Tel No: 028 9056 6407**

**Fax No: 028 90485309**