

NEWTOWNABBEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

Section 1 Introduction

ETHOS

Newtownabbey Community High School has a caring family atmosphere and welcomes children from all background. The Ethos of our school is very positive in that it promotes the moral, intellectual and social development of all our pupils. It has its foundation in mutual respect, collaborative decision making and effective teamwork and is achieved by all of us promoting an atmosphere of care and respect for everyone within the school. We aim to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which enable our children to participate with increasing independence as valued members of the community.

RATIONALE

Research has shown the use of drugs by young people has increased and parental influence is on the decline. As a result young people are under considerable peer pressure to conform to what is often seen as a norm, which may see drug taking as acceptable. Schools do have an important role to play if the situation is to improve. Drugs Education alone will not solve the problem: however, nothing can be solved in the absence of an effective drugs education programme.

DRUGS DEFINITION

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

Illegal drugs: those substances listed as controlled drugs e.g. Magic mushrooms, Cannabis, Ecstasy, LSD, Cocaine/Crack and Heroin.

Illicit drugs: these are the socially unacceptable legal drugs such as poppers, solvents, and under age consumption of alcohol and tobacco.

Prescription drugs are drugs, which are issued only by a doctor.

AIMS of DRUGS POLICY

Our policy seeks to ensure a consistent approach by all members of staff to develop an effective partnership with parents and to provide a clear statement to all as to how any incident should be addressed. It is hoped that this policy will ensure our children acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills to help them to make the right decisions to live a healthy lifestyle.

Our Policy will include the following aims:

To ensure a consistent approach by all staff to drug education and in the handling of drug related incidents.

To develop and implement a drugs education programme within the school curriculum.

To develop procedures for addressing any drug related issue

Section 2 Development and Implication

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Governors

- Support the development and on-going review of the drugs policy and programme.
- Ensure a summary of the policy is published in the school prospectus
- Ensure they are fully aware and adequately trained to deal with any drug related incident including alcohol and tobacco.
- Have one member of the Board who is specifically trained in drugs-related issues.

Principal

Determine (not investigate) any drug-related incident. (The PSNI will investigate)

Contact the parents and or guardians of any pupils involved in any drugs-related incident.

Contact the PSNI, then confine responsibilities to the welfare of the pupil(s) involved

Inform the Board of Governors about the incident.

Agree with them any appropriate pastoral or disciplinary measures to be taken

Store or dispose of any drug or drug related paraphernalia
Report the incident to *P. Baird, Advisor for LLW* for the North Eastern Education & Library Board at Antrim Board Centre.

Designated Teacher for Drugs

The Designated teacher for Drugs in Newtownabbey Community High School is Mr R Holmes.

- His responsibilities are: -
- To oversee and co-ordinate the drugs education programme
- To co-ordinate the school's procedures for handling suspected drugs-related incidents
- To ensure teachers are trained in these procedures
- To act as contact point for outside agencies coming into the school
- To take possession of any substance or drugs paraphernalia found in the event of any drugs-related incident.
- To complete a report following any drug-related incident.

Individual Staff Members (teaching and non-teachers)

- Deal with any emergency procedures surrounding the incident they have just encountered.
- Forward any information, substance or paraphernalia to designated teacher.
- Complete a factual report for the designated teacher.

Training

Staff (both teaching and non-teaching) will be trained in drugs awareness every two years. This will also be offered to parents. Training can be provided by the NEELB, designated teacher or the PSNI. Teaching staff can also avail of training in drugs education through active learning by NEELB staff.

Overview of Drugs Education programme

Aspects of drugs education will continue to be covered in subjects such as Science, RE, HE and English. However, Drugs Awareness is now a statutory part of Personal Development in the LLW area of learning. In the CCEA resource INSYNC, drugs awareness is one of the ten topics to be covered. Aspects of drugs education could be covered in five of the other topics, such as Health and the Whole Person etc. However, it stands as a topic on its own and there is a statutory requirement that it is covered.

Year 8 looks at the definition of a drug and the existing knowledge of and attitudes to drugs, as well as the different categories and their effects on the body.

Year 9 looks in general at smoking, alcohol and drugs.

Year 10 covers drug addiction, the cost, the effects and the law.

In KS4, Drugs Awareness will cover the topics covered in KS3 at a much deeper level.

The drugs education programme is one of prevention and only quality teaching is good enough for this important part of the curriculum, so active, pupil-centred teaching methods will be used wherever possible.

The main aims of our Drugs Education Programme are: -

To inform children of the effects of drug abuse and provide accurate and up to date information on drugs and their effects on health

- To establish skills and behaviour which enable children to communicate effectively, assert themselves and take responsible decisions
- To help pupils acquire skills in managing peer pressure
- To create a climate where pupils feel happy to discuss drugs.

To build up the self-esteem and confidence of our children

To help our children to identify and understand the pressures and influences which could have a serious consequence for their health and well-being

To ensure progression and continuity in knowledge and understanding, matching these to the age, maturity and circumstances of the pupils concerned

Staff will follow a preventative approach to the Drugs Education Programme while employing active, pupil-centred teaching methods where appropriate.

Staff use of smoking and alcohol

It is a legal requirement that our premises are smoke free. No-Smoking signs have been displayed, clearly visible to all members of staff or visitors to the school. Anyone smoking will be advised that they are committing an offence and will be politely asked to stop smoking and advised that it is also an offence for the school to allow anyone to smoke. For issues relating to staff use of alcohol, we refer them to the Alcohol and Drug Misuse Policy (TNC 2005/5) available from the D.E.

Communicating the Policy to parents and other relevant agencies.

Reference to the Drugs Policy will be made in the School Prospectus and it will be available for all parents to view within the school or **can be accessed on the website**. Pupils' views on the policy will be considered through the School Council. A random selection of parents will be sent the policy so that they may express their views on the policy if they so wish. Any recommendation regarding the policy will be given due consideration.

Any agency visiting the school will also be given a copy of the policy so that they can adhere to its contents.

SECTION 2 Management Issues

If the designated teacher for drugs receives an allegation of possession it may be appropriate to search a pupil's desk or locker. This must be done in the presence of an adult witness and must **not** include personal belongings. This includes schoolbag, coats etc. This can only be done with the pupil's consent.

If the pupil refuses and the teacher has reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil has taken or has in their possession an illegal substance and is a danger to themselves or others, the teacher can detain the pupil with reasonable force until the police come. If this is not possible, then it is the PSNI's responsibility to follow the pupil.

Newtownabbey Community High school believes that the misuse of drugs/solvents will not only damage individuals directly, but also others involved, such as families, school and the wider community. CCEA in its guidelines clearly defines the procedures to be followed in managing such misuse:

- (1) Substances found in the school premises (Appendix 1)
- (2) Finding/suspecting a pupil of possessing them (App. 2)
- (3) Dealing with a pupil under the influence of drugs (App. 3)
- (4) Emergency first aid procedures. (App. 4)

We have included these step-by-step procedures that all members of staff and visitors must follow in our appendices.

Disciplinary Measures

Specific sanctions cannot be prescribed to suspected drugs-related incidents. The principal will decide how to respond to such incidents after taking into account a number of factors. Some examples of these are: -

1. Is this a first or subsequent offence?
2. Is the drug illicit or illegal?
3. What was the pupil's motivation?
4. Is the pupil aware of the drugs policy?
5. Is it a case of possession or supply?

The needs of the individual pupils will always be considered and appropriate interventions and support/counselling mechanisms put in place

Confidentiality

Schools can never guarantee confidentiality to pupils. Any drug-related activity disclosed to any teacher or agency while on the school premises must be passed on to the designated teacher. This should be made clear to pupils.

Using Outside Visitors/Agencies

Visitor/Agency will:

- Have Child Protection policy
- Be given copy of policy to ensure school's views on confidentiality
- Have appropriate resources
- Have a clear set of aims and objectives and the impact it had on the children.
- Ensure their programme is part of the school's drugs programme

The teacher will:

- Always be present in the room
- Ensure the content is appropriate
- Evaluate the programme and the impact it made on the children.
- Provide introductory/follow-up activities before and after the visit

Emergency First aid Procedures

- Send for the teachers trained in first aid (Mrs Winchester or Mr Armstrong)
- Find out what has been taken. This will help the emergency crew.
- If a depressant drug (alcohol, solvents, sleeping pills or painkillers) has been taken, they will feel drowsy. Keep them awake by getting them to walk or by applying a cool damp cloth to the back of their neck
- Do **not** give anything to eat or drink.
- If unconscious, put in recovery position, clear airways and call an ambulance immediately

- If they stop breathing, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Stay until ambulance arrives and inform them of the facts.
- If a stimulant (Amphetamines or ecstasy) has been taken, the person will be distressed. It is important they remain calm and relaxed. Get them to breathe in and out slowly. If hyperventilating occurs, get them to breathe in and out of a **paper** bag.
- If LSD or hallucinogen has been taken, keep them in a darkened, quiet room to avoid sensory stimulation. They should be supervised at all times and kept reassured that the effects will wear off and they are in no danger.

Guidance for Confiscation and Storage of Harmful Substances

The law allows staff to take temporary possession of any substance found for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and committing the offence of possession. The teacher should take any substance/paraphernalia found to the Designated Teacher who will arrange for its safe storage with the principal until it can be handed over to the police. Another adult should always be present when the substance is confiscated. A record will be kept of the details.

Guidance on Hazardous Substances used in School

Teachers

- There will be close supervision throughout the school of materials such as glue, felt-tips, aerosols etc when used by pupils
- In classrooms, teachers will be expected to monitor closely the distribution, use and collection of all potentially hazardous substances.
- Such materials will be kept in a locked cupboard, with access only for the teacher

Cleaning Staff

- All cleaning materials and substances used in the maintenance and cleaning of the school will be stored in the original containers and kept locked away when not in use. These are the responsibility of the caretaker.

Guidelines on the Administration of Medication in School

From December 2008 DENI has directed schools to have a separate policy on the administration of medicines in schools. Creation of this policy is supported, through Special Needs, by DENI publication "Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs". Support can be had from NEELB.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Review of Policy and Procedures

This policy and the procedures contained within it will be monitored and amended, after consultation, when appropriate and certainly following any incident, actual or suspected.

Criteria for Evaluating Success of Programme

The evaluation process will be assisted by information from teachers which will have been gained through monitoring the teaching situation. Both the Teacher's and Pupil's Evaluation Sheets from the NEELB Drugs file will be used at the end of each module to assist in the evaluation. Oral feedback from parental sources and the pupils themselves will also impinge upon the process. Necessary changes in practices and content arising from the review will be implemented.

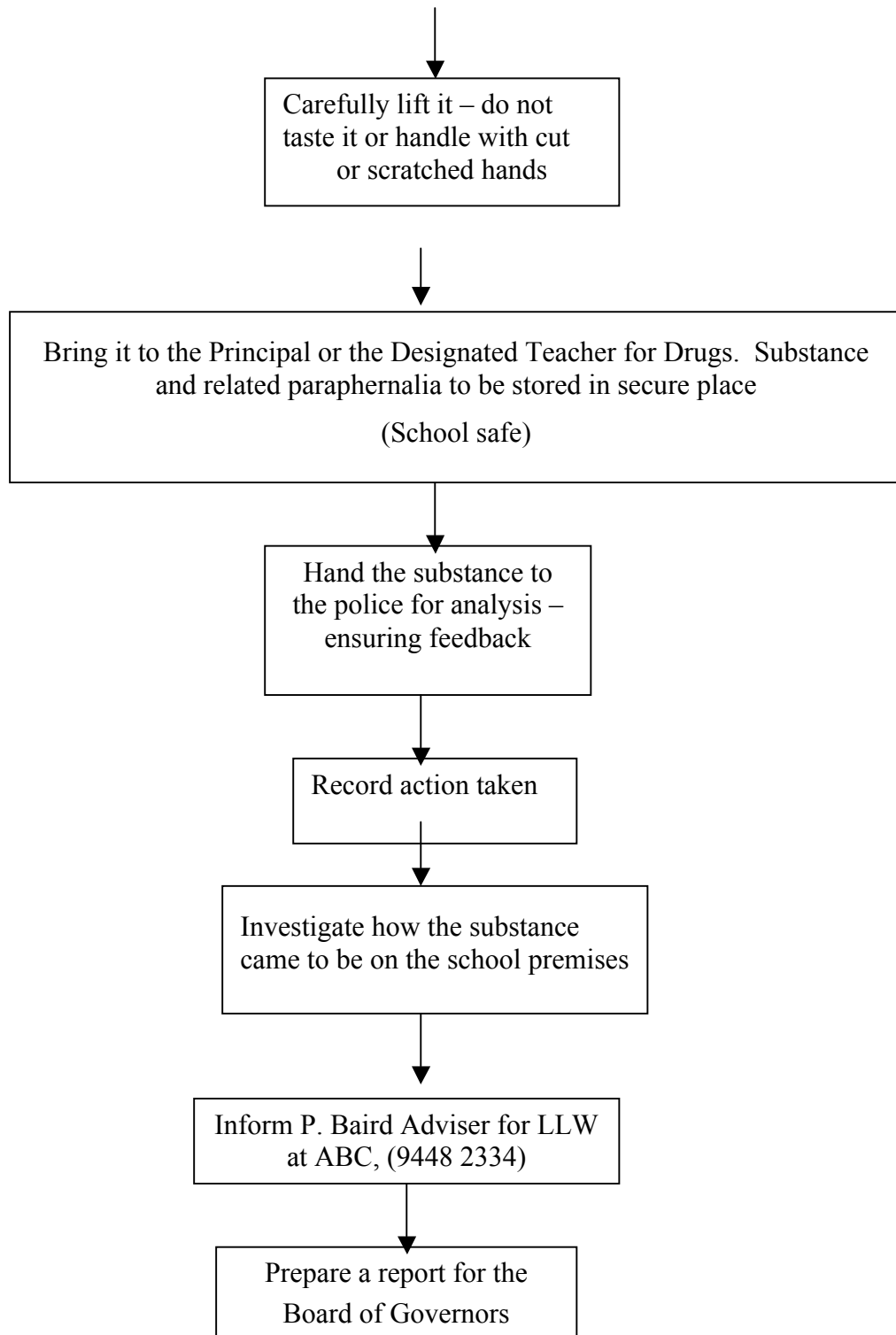
APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Finding a substance on the school premises
- Appendix 2 Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance
- Appendix 3 Pupil suspected of having taken drugs in school
- Appendix 4 Drugs Incident Report Form
- Appendix 5 Drugs Programme Evaluation Forms.....
Pupil/Teacher

APPENDIX 1

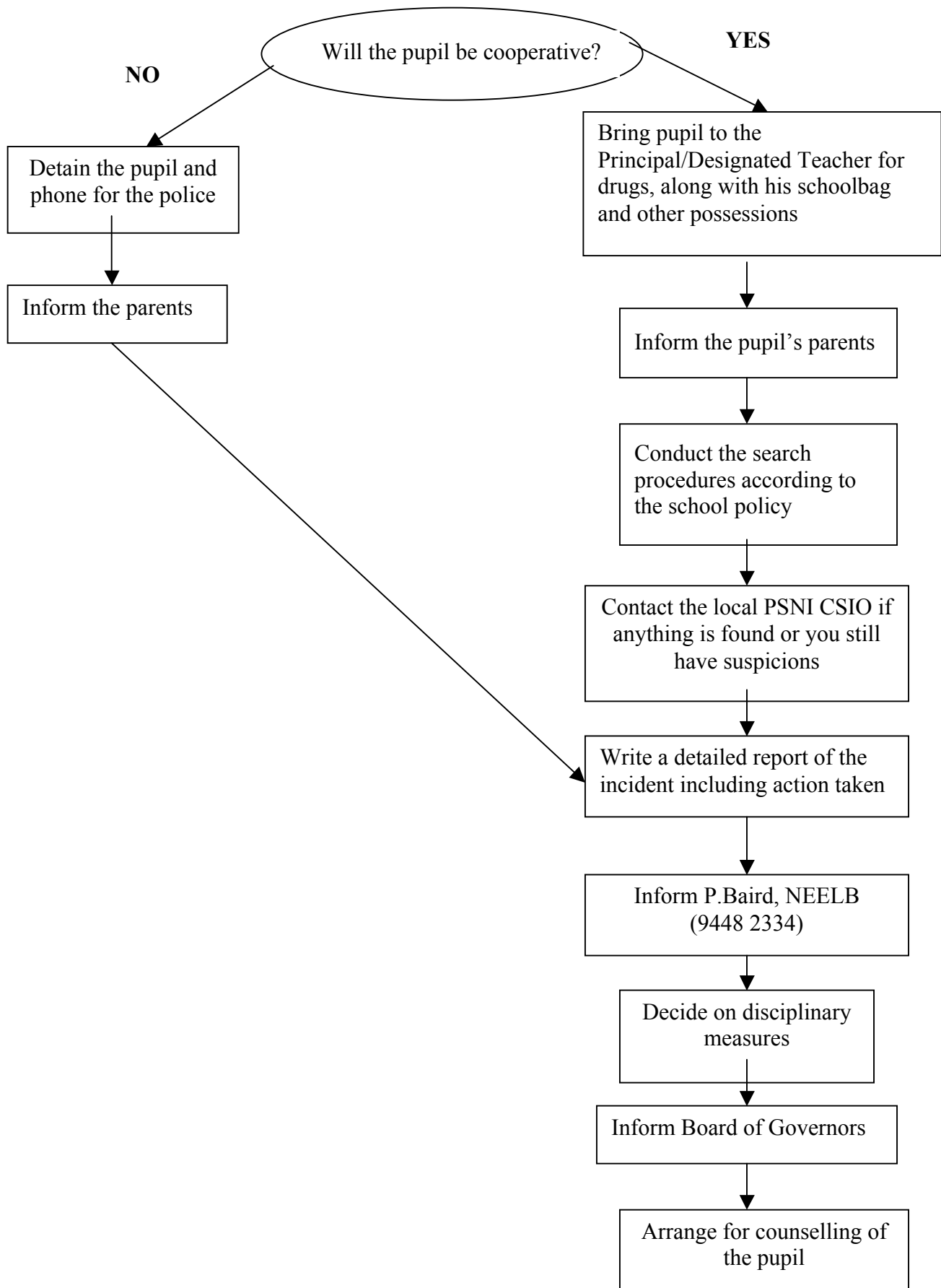
Finding a substance on the school premises

Unknown substance found on the school premises



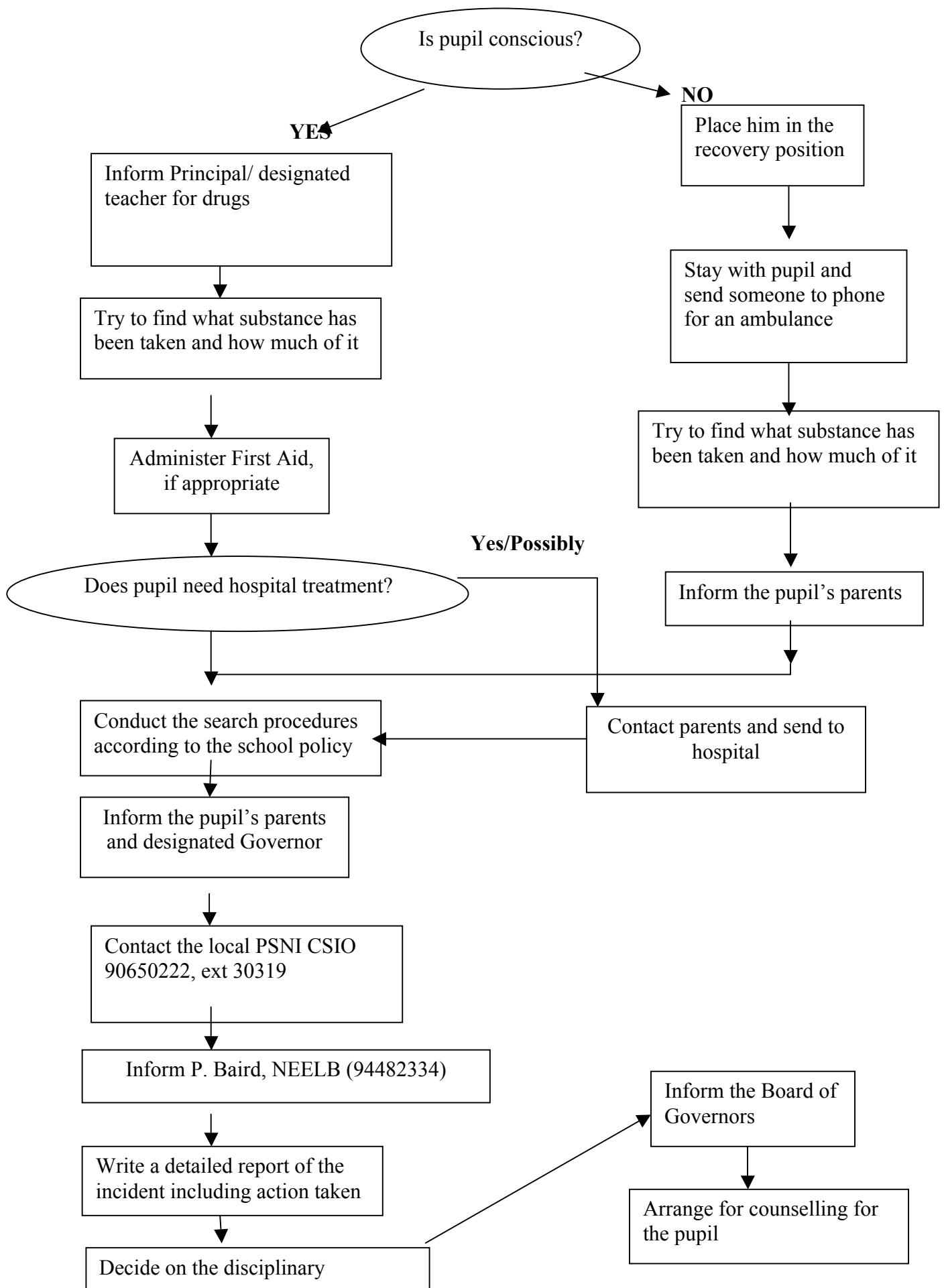
APPENDIX 2

Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance on school premises and grounds



APPENDIX 3

Pupil suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance in school



APPENDIX 4

Drugs Incident Report Form

Name of Pupil _____ **Class** _____

Address _____

Date/time of Incident _____

Reported by _____

First Aid given by _____

Details _____

Police Informed _____

NEELB informed _____

Disciplinary/pastoral/other response

Details _____

APPENDIX 5a

Drugs Education Evaluation Sheet

1. What did you enjoy most about the drug lessons you have been studying?

2. What did you like least about the lessons?

3. What was the most important thing you learnt?

4. Has your attitude to drugs changed because of the lessons? Yes No

5. If 'Yes', state how?

6. Would you be more or less likely to use the drug studied in the future?

More likely

Unsure

Less likely

School _____

Year Group _____

Unit(s) taught

Key Stage 2 Key Stage 3 Key Stage 4 Smoking Alcohol Solvents Drugs (KS3&4)

Please comment on the following:

Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length/amount • Easy to follow • Age appropriateness • Links to curriculum 	
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitability • Effectiveness 	
Pupil's Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement • Learning • Homework 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitability • Ease of Use 	
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Suggestions • Good Practice 	