



# Drug Education Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: 04.10.2016

Review Date: 04.10.2018

## Introduction

As part of our overall personal, social and health education, our drugs education reflects our school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well being. We recognise that the term 'drugs' covers a wide range of substances including medicines, tobacco, alcohol and prescribed drugs as well as illegal substances.

## Rationale

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

This policy has been developed within the context of links with other policies in our school including Child Protection, Use of Prescribed Medicines, No Smoking, Behaviour and Health and Safety, P.S.H.E.

## Drug definition

A drug is a substance, legal or illegal that can alter the way the mind or body works. Therefore this policy will include alcohol, tobacco products, caffeine, solvents and other volatile substances, over the counter drugs and medicines, prescribed medicines including tranquillisers and painkillers and illegal drugs.

## We aim:

- To enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To help young people to develop a sense of self-awareness and self-esteem.
- To develop skills that will enable pupils to combat drug misuse e.g. peer pressure, decision making, keeping safe and keeping well.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- To help young people distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To counter any inaccurate messages which young people receive about drugs.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- To continue to develop as a healthy school.
- To encourage understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse.
- To be aware of pupils who are particularly vulnerable. .
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support, e.g. teacher support, Childline, Talk to Frank and Buckinghamshire Young People's Drug Service.



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We intend to achieve our aims through:

- A co-ordinated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs.
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.
- Content and teaching approaches, which take account of the age and cultural/social background of pupils, and includes those with special educational needs and English as an additional language.
- Integration of drug education into the curriculum.
- Training and support for staff in the planning and delivery of drug education.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.
- Recognising that adults are role models for children. (All staff recognises that children are likely to notice and possibly follow their behaviour).
- Maintaining a smoke-free environment, in conjunction with our Health and Safety Policy.

## Planning and Teaching

Opportunities for drug education will be clearly identified on long, medium and short term plans and a wide range of teaching approaches may be used.

Delivery will be through:

- Planned elements of the science curriculum
- Discrete PSHE and Citizenship time
- Assemblies
- Occasional planned and negotiated visits from the school nurse, police officer or other appropriate person
- The use of story, the literacy and circle time
- Use of internet and ICT resources

A wide range of resources can be found in the library and resource area.

## Content of curriculum

Key Stage 1 (5-7 year olds) - The role of drugs as medicines

Key Stage 2 (7-11 year olds) - That alcohol, tobacco and other drugs can have harmful effects

## Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, they must always work within child protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

## Dealing with drug-related incidents

There are a variety of situations that would constitute a drug-related incident outlined below:

1. Pupil under the influence of drugs/alcohol
2. Discovery- drugs/alcohol/paraphernalia found on pupil
3. Supplying by pupil/ staff/parents/carer/persons external to the school community
4. Disclosure
5. Suspicion or rumour



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6. School staff/parents/ carers/person external to the school community under the influence of drugs/alcohol on school premises

## **Support and sanctions**

There will not be an automatic sanction applied to any drug-related incident in school. Any response will be taken after considering all relevant facts and information about a young person and the circumstances in which any incident has come about. The schools response will be part of a supportive network developed to ensure that the school uses its powers to protect the long term welfare of all the pupils in the school keeping the child protection issues in mind all the time.

See Appendix A for detailed guidelines

## **Working with Visitors**

Visitors can make a valuable contribution to drug education provision. As stated in the Visitor Policy, the rationale for bringing in a visitor must be clear. It must fit in with the stated aims and objectives of the school's PSHE and Citizenship Policy and this Drug Education policy. School staff must always be present and educational outcomes evaluated.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Headteacher has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area is followed, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug related incidents.

The PSHE co-ordinator is responsible for overseeing both curriculum delivery and other elements of school life contributing to drug education. This will include monitoring and evaluating drug education policy and practice throughout the school. The co-ordinator will also aim to liaise with the Link School co-ordinator to ensure a consistent approach and progression in teaching once pupils transfer from the Twyford to the Link school.

The aim will also be for the governor with responsibility for drug education and drug related issues to have received training in drug issues and contribute to developing and reviewing drug education policy and practice.

**SIGNED:**

**DATE:**



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## DRUG INCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

## APPENDIX A

### Aims:

- To provide guidelines for all staff in dealing with drug related incidents.
- To ensure that staff feel secure in the knowledge that there are clear procedures to follow.
- To ensure that any drug related incident is handled effectively and in the best interests of all those concerned.
- To define clear roles and responsibilities with regard to any drug related incidents.
- To avoid any negative publicity.
- To monitor all incidents as part of reviewing the school's policy for drugs education.

### Rationale

The term 'drug' is defined as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

Since our definition of 'drug' includes medicines, alcohol and tobacco, it is important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount. We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by LEA and national guidance.

Brief guidance is as follows:

### Responding to possible drug related incidents -

Any situation where drugs might possibly be involved should be treated seriously. If a child is involved parents should be informed as early as possible so that home and school can work together. Any information concerning risk to a child or any other person should be passed immediately to the headteacher or her representative who will, in turn, consult other appropriate support agencies as necessary.

### Guidelines on discovering drugs or similarly abusable substances

- Obtain medical help if necessary. Keep any evidence of what has been taken, such as the substance itself, packaging, etc. (This includes adverse reactions to medicinal drugs)
- Take the substance from the child and place it in a safe container. If at all possible a witness should be present. In all cases, a written statement should be made as soon as possible - this should be counter-signed by the witness, if present.
- Notify parents or guardians immediately.
- Inform police if appropriate and follow their advice.
- Consult with relevant agencies as appropriate.

### Needles and syringes and other dangerous items

- If a needle or syringe is discovered within the school grounds then the district council should be contacted to arrange for the safe disposal of the items.
- The caretaker will do a daily morning check on the school grounds and will remove any items such as bottles, cans, etc. She will report any significant finds immediately to the headteacher
- All staff will keep a careful check for any unwanted items coming into school. For example, containers for junk modelling still containing potentially dangerous liquids or tablets or medicines placed in lunchboxes.