



## **POLICY ON DRUGS EDUCATION AND MANAGING DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

### **1 AIMS**

- 1.1 Our school believes in the right of every child to a broad and balanced curriculum. We believe all children should have equal access to education programmes that equip them with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to make healthy and informed decisions about their lives now and in the future. The aims are fulfilled within the taught curriculum and through opportunities within informal and extra curricular activities. In order to deliver this commitment, there is also a role for appropriate support agencies, for example the LA (Drugs Education Team), Social Services, Health Advisors (School Nurse) and the Police.
- 1.2 This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff.
- 1.3 The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff and the drugs education should be incorporated into the planning of PSHE and science at both KS1 and KS2 and the Foundation Stage. It will be overseen by the Headteacher and the identified teacher for PSHE.

### **2 OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 Our approach to Drugs Education seeks to support the following aims in respect of drug use and misuse:
  - To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
  - To provide accurate information about substances in relation to personal safety.
  - To develop an understanding that all medicines are drugs, but that not all drugs are medicines, and that all substances are harmful if not used properly.
  - To increase understanding about the implications of and possible consequences of substance use and misuse.
  - To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
  - To widen understanding about related health and social issues including crime, impact on both family and community.

### **3 THE POLICY**

- 3.1 In preparation for their future in secondary school and beyond, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate in the consequences of drugs misuse and use. Therefore as part of the care for pupil welfare, this school states categorically that it is against the misuse of drugs, alcohol and solvents by all members of the school. The school is opposed to the illegal possession or supply of these substances on its premises.
- 3.2 The school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We are a non-smoking school and expect all staff and visitors to abide by the policy to maintain a healthy environment.



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- 3.3 The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of the children and will seek to provide a safe atmosphere where pupils feel they can talk about their problems or concerns with staff.
- 3.4 In response to shared concerns at a local and national level, and as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a responsibility to inform and educate children of the role of medicines and that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly. The school believes health education is a vital part of the personal and social development of every pupil.
- 3.5 The school is aware that the effective communication and co-operation with parents/carers is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

#### **4 ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER AND GOVERNING BODY**

- 4.1 The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and LA appropriate outside agencies, and for the appointment within the school of an identified teacher for PSHE who will incorporate Drugs Education into the PSHE education. The identified teacher for PSHE will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained where necessary.
- 4.2 The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.
- 4.3 The school will consider any incident involving substances individually and recognises that responses will vary according to each incident. In all instances it will be necessary to inform the Headteacher. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take.
- 4.4 The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA Press Office and Legal Department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

#### **5 SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

- 5.1 There are a number of situations that staff in school could have to deal with. These are considered here as emergency; intoxication; finding evidence, disclosure and suspicion.

##### **5.1.1 FINDING EVIDENCE, DISCLOSURE, SUSPICION OF DRUG MISUSE**

If a pupil is discovered, or is suspected of using or possessing a substance, including tobacco or alcohol, that is not allowed on the school premises then the following action will be taken (as in line with the Child Protection Policy agreed by the school and the LEA):

1. The substance will be confiscated in the presence of two adults.



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2. The substance will be labelled and dated and locked in a safe place.
3. The pupil's parents/carers will be contacted.
4. The Headteacher, after consultation with the parents/carers, will decide what to do next. Details of their discussion and agreed action will remain on file.
5. If there is a suspicion of or a disclosure relating to drug misuse, Action points 3 and 4 above will be followed.
6. The school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the illegal production, preparation, supply or misuse of any drug. Where it is suspected that substances are on the premises, details regarding those involved and as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer as appropriate.
7. If a member of staff or adult is discovered misusing a substance including tobacco or alcohol then the above sanctions will apply.

## **6 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACTS**

- 7.1 All emergency telephone numbers and contacts are available in the school office.

### **REVIEW**

This policy was agreed by the P & S committee May 2022. To be reviewed May 2024 unless new guidance / incident requires review earlier.