

St Helena's Church of England Primary School, Willoughby

Drugs Education Policy

"It is our responsibility to learn and achieve our dreams as a family."

Opening minds, widening horizons and developing a better world

Valuing Compassion, Community, Endurance, Friendship, Hope, Thankfulness, Wisdom and Respect

Introduction

In accordance with our school aims, we believe the teaching of drug, alcohol and tobacco education is a fundamental part of the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development.

Children have responsibilities towards themselves, and respect and care for their bodies is an important part of those responsibilities. They also have a responsibility for their behaviour as it affects them and those around them and they must be encouraged to attain high standards of behaviour in all things, understanding that the younger children look to older ones for their example. **Children will be made aware that bag, locker and bodily searches may have to be undertaken by the appropriate person, should a drugs related incident occur in school.**

The development in children of a sense of their own worth and that of others is crucial to their success and the school is always committed to fostering those concepts.

The learning programme will build upon the work done in Science, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Relationships, Sex and Health Education, Religious Education and positive behaviour strategies.

The term "drug" means prescribed medicines, legal drugs (e.g. over the counter medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents) and illegal drugs.

All drugs are potentially harmful and therefore consistent and clear procedures which promote safety and good management are required.

The aims of the Policy;

The function of this policy is to clarify the importance of Drugs Education to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in our school. It is a working document for all staff, pupils, parents and governors and their future opinions will always be considered, when evaluating its content.

Location of the Policy;

Staff and governors will find a copy of the policy on the V Drive of the school's network.

Parents will have access to a copy at the information evening prior to the subject being taught.

A paper copy can be obtained from the office.

The school's Drug Education Programme

Aims of Drug Education

- To help pupils develop, extend and practise the skills they need to cope responsibly in a drug using society
- To provide access to reliable, up to date, objective and balanced information about drugs, including medicines and legal drugs

- To give opportunities for pupils to explore a range of attitudes to drugs and to drug users, including their own and each others
- To emphasise the school's focus upon personal safety and personal health to explore issues relevant to pupils, which are raised by the uses of drugs in society
- To contribute to raising and maintaining high self-esteem in all pupils
- To foster competence and confidence in pupils' critical thinking and decision making skills
- To identify sources of further information and reliable support

Provision

The **statutory requirements** of the National Science Curriculum state that children must be taught about:

- the role of drugs as medicines (Key Stage 1)
- the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how it relates to personal health (Key Stage 2)

The **non statutory requirements** of the PSHE framework state that children must be taught:

- that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly (Key Stage 1)
- which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks (Key Stage 2)

All staff will be responsible for teaching the programme.

It will be timetabled alongside the National Curriculum orders for Science in order to make the learning connections.

The children will be taught in mixed gender groups.

Methodology

All children, whatever their age or maturity, will have some knowledge of drugs and will have been exposed to others' views. An assessment of current levels of knowledge, understanding and attitudes will be made before starting the programme in order to highlight misconceptions and real-life experiences. On occasion teaching will be tailored to individual's needs by outside agencies.

The teaching strategies of discussion and reflection will be a major influence on the work. Ground rules will be established together with each teaching group before discussion begins. As much as possible interactive teaching methods (role-play, drama, small world play, debate, games and research) will be used in order to clarify and reinforce children's understanding.

Staff Development

Continuous professional development will be considered within each individual teacher's Performance Management process and to take account of national, county and school initiatives.

Use of outside speakers and visitors

The delivery of drug education will be supported by our local police and school nurse. Their role and contributions will be carefully negotiated to ensure they meet the needs of the pupils and a teacher will always be present when visitors are working with pupils.

Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the policy and programme

As we are a small school with only 7 teaching staff, the consultation and co-ordination of the policy making has been the responsibility of the Head. The teaching of the programme will be the responsibility of all the staff.

Colleagues' planning and the corresponding children's work will be monitored and evaluated.

End of unit assessments will be made against learning outcomes and recorded on the class sheets.

A written statement about the pupil's knowledge, skills and attitudes will be recorded in the child's end of year report.

Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

"If any drug related incidents should occur, the safety and well being of the child will always be the overriding concern. Each incident will be considered taking into account the circumstances of the individual and the parents, Police and other appropriate agencies will be informed according to the needs of the individual concerned. There may be interest in drug related incidents by the media. Confidentiality of pupils will be a priority. The Headteacher or Chair of Governors will respond to media questions."

The procedures for managing any incident or situation involving unauthorised drugs are outlined in the Drug Related Incidents Guidance (DRIG) document. This is kept in a labelled folder in the head's office bookcase.

If a child is involved in a drug related incident on the school premises during the working day, the parents will be informed immediately (By the school premises and day, we mean journeys to and from school, off site learning and extra curricular activities). The safety and well-being of the child is paramount, a decision will then be made by the Head to inform the police, ambulance service and/or Social Services. In the absence of the Head, the senior teacher will make that decision.

Staff will be vigilant about discharging a pupil to the care of a parent/carer who appears to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol, particularly if they intend to drive the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement, as the focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety.

Where such behaviour places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will report the matter to the Headteacher or Senior member of staff, who will consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and the involvement of Social Services or the police. All these procedures are best explained in the flow chart (Appendix 1).

The procedures to be carried out, should it be staff that are involved in a drugs related incident, are outlined in the Staff Code of Conduct, Disciplinary and Capability policies.

All drugs and medicines will be managed at school by school staff and they should only be brought onto school premises with the knowledge and permission of school staff in accordance with the school's "Medical" policies.

If unauthorised drugs are discovered on school premises (including medicines, alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drugs at any time) they will always be confiscated and either destroyed or stored in a specified location, and only legal drugs returned to parents.

The school will rely upon guidance from Quality Standards document "The Right Responses" and upon the support and advice of LA staff and the Lincolnshire DRIG document to inform policy, procedures and practice.

The role of Parents and Carers

We welcome parents/carers to approach the school to discuss issues or to share concerns they may have about drug education before the teaching and learning begins.

The role of the Governors

The Governors are aware of their role in trying to achieve these ends in a society which, although comparatively sheltered, is under threat from drug abuse and related problems. The named Governor for Drug Education is Mrs M. Fulwood.

The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis, as and when new legislation comes into school. The school community will be informed.

Liaison with other schools

We will endeavour to liaise with our local secondary schools to ensure our pupils experience a smooth transition.

The consultation process in the development of this policy has involved staff, governors, parents and LA officers.

This policy will be reviewed annually by staff and governors.

Appendix 1

