

Wallsend Jubilee Primary School

Drugs Policy

Introduction

At Wallsend Jubilee Primary:

We believe every child has a right to be safe and healthy.

The school plays an important role in supporting and promoting attitudes, practices and understanding which encourage the child to make informed decisions enabling them to choose a healthy lifestyle.

We therefore strive to create an atmosphere in which the child feels safe and able to discuss their problems and concerns whilst developing an understanding of drugs and their use and misuse, if this is appropriate to the individual pupil.

Date of policy: 04/09/15 Review date: September 2017

Staff responsible for drugs issues: The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff, liaising with external agencies to support the curriculum and developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for managing drug-related incidents and for liaising with external agencies to support pupils vulnerable to drug misuse.

There is also a governor with a lead on PSHE who liaises with the school about curriculum and policy.

Links to other policies:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the PSHE and Citizenship policy and the following related policies; Health and Safety, Behaviour, Administering Medicines, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities.

The definition of drugs:

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". This is also used by the DfES in its drugs guidance.

This refers to all drugs:

- Legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and poppers
- Over the counter and prescription medicines
- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD
- Other drugs such as anabolic steroids, volatile substances (solvents)

Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

Why a policy is needed:

We believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognize that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Pupils need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school.
- Provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school
- Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education

How this policy was developed:

This policy was drafted by the PSHE Co-ordinator, following advice from North Tyneside Local Authority.

Aims of drugs education:

To give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drug use.

To achieve this our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects, risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills, and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

What is taught:

The PSHE scheme of work shows what is taught in each Key Stage, objectives and key learning intentions are set for each lesson, and on medium term plans. Drug education focuses on knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. The teaching programme ensures that there is the appropriate information available dependent on the individual needs of the pupil.

Primary focuses are on medicines and how to be safe, being ill and getting better, being safe with household substances and risks.

The content reflects

- the statutory elements of the science National Curriculum
- aspects of the non-statutory framework for PSHE and citizenship
- individual pupil need

Drug education is taught mainly through PSHE and citizenship and through relevant topics in science e.g. My Body.

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values. In addition they acquire knowledge, practice skills to cope with drug-related situations and engage actively in their own learning. Such activities include role play, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Pupils work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, mixing up so that they experience working with lots of different pupils in the class, as well as in friendship groups.

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that pupils and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught by the class teacher with support from the PSHE coordinator and the Public Health team.

Training and support for staff:

Information and teaching strategies gained from training are shared with other staff through staff meetings and CPD

The PSHE Co-ordinator has opportunities to develop their skills in planning and co-ordinating drug education, through support from the Local Authority and involvement in LA projects.

The Public Health team are available for help and advice on delivery of drug education.

Management of drugs in school:

School's view about the use of drugs

This school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorized legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits (supervised or not), school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents, governors and those working and visiting the school.

Management of authorised drugs

We believe that there are circumstances, when some legal drugs are authorized for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

(i) Prescribed Medicines

Staff are trained to administer medicines to pupils where necessary. Details about administration of medicines can be found in the Health and Safety Policy.

Staff are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect pupils in their class.

(ii) Non-prescribed medicines

Staff do not give any non-prescribed medicines to pupils and they are not allowed to be brought to school. The Public Health nurse will administer these medicines if they are in a clearly labelled bottle and have appropriate written parental consent.

(iii) Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals eg for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy.

(iv) Alcohol

Staff accompanying pupils on residential or school journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils.

Management of drugs related incidents:

Definition of a drug-related incident

In this school, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorized and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries.

Drug related incidents in school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve:

Pupils smoking cigarettes in school, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk, pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils, misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another pupil, a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes at a local newsagents, the school keeper finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking in the grounds.

School responses to drug-related incidents

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- The Headteacher and/or Deputy Headteacher will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the student will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy

Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Headteacher.

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the Police, we will inform them immediately any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters.

Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using a drugs incident form. The form is given to the Headteacher and kept confidential in the school office.

In all drug-related incidents the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.

It is very rare for our pupils to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

Dealing with drug-taking materials

School site staff and the caretaker make regular checks of the school grounds and know how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice.

Disclosure:

If a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE and citizenship programme. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Intoxicated parents/carers

Our school's rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

Reviewing the policy:

This policy is reviewed every three years by a working group consisting of; the PSHE and Citizenship Co-ordinator(s), school council representatives, staff, governor responsible for PSHE.

Signed:

_____ PSHE Coordinator

_____ Head teacher

_____ PSHE Governor