

Drugs Education Policy

This policy is a whole school policy including EYFS

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

1.2 The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, principals and staff.

2 Organisation

2.1 We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

2.2 Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 5 and 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we may use guidelines provided by the LEA and or the Local Health Authority. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

2.3 The children's class teacher teaches them drugs education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from health professionals. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can

avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

3 The role of the principal

- 3.1** It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

4 Monitoring and review

- 4.1** This policy is the principal's ongoing responsibility along with reviewing its effectiveness annually in consultation with the staff.

Signed:

Date: