



DRUGS & ALCOHOL EDUCATION
& Managing Drug/Alcohol related incidents
(Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education)

This policy has been written taking into account our school's ethos, vision and values.

As a school we take pride in our own core values of Respect, Resourceful, Responsible, Reflective and Resilience. These core values are promoted and celebrated where possible and underpin our school ethos. We also believe in promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing positive experiences within the curriculum and through the local community.

POLICY FOR DRUG/ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS.

Introduction

The misuse of drugs both legal and illegal by young people can have a serious impact on their educational attainment, relationships with family and friends and their health and well-being, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

Schools play a fundamental role in providing drug education and in creating a safe and supportive environment that enables young people to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to drugs and drug related issues.

Drugs/Alcohol education is delivered at Hamworthy Park Junior School as part of the PSHCE curriculum and fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Science. It is also in line with the government's guidance 'Drugs: Guidance for schools' Department of Education 2004.

Context

Hamworthy Park Junior School has approximately 480 pupils, ranging from the age of 7 to 11 years. The School has a significant number of pupils on the Special Needs register. Part of PSHCE includes the teaching of Drugs/Alcohol Awareness, and Sex and Relationships Education.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy a 'drug' is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes both legal and illegal substances, volatile substances (solvents), alcohol, tobacco and prescribed drugs.

The Aim of Drugs/Alcohol Education

The Drugs Policy forms part of the jigsaw integrated scheme of work for Key Stage Two. It is the aim of the school through this delivery to ensure that all children work and learn together in a secure, caring, stimulating, challenging, warm, friendly and supportive environment.

The policy is also reflected in the 'Every Child Matters' Agenda, through enabling discussion of children's experiences and reflecting on the skills needed to stay healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, and to make their contribution to the school and their community.

The aim of Drug Education is to provide an opportunity for pupils to explore and develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to drugs and drug related issues to enable them to make informed decisions.

Through the Drugs Policy and the delivery of a Drugs Awareness programme tailored to the needs of the children, it is the aim of the school to ensure that all children in its care have the best possible skills and appropriate information to enable them to make informed decisions about keeping themselves safe and choosing a healthy lifestyle.

Through this learning, the children should be able to have an understanding of the risks that they would be taking and the consequences of their actions. They need to be aware of the dangers, but also the positive uses of drugs, such as medicines. To understand how drugs can affect the body, and that not all drugs are illegal, but that all drugs do have an effect on the body. To know that some foods also contain substances that can also affect these changes.

Aims and Objectives

It is the aim of the policy that pupil knowledge and understanding is developed and clarifies misconceptions about:

- the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs;
- the rules and laws relating to drugs;
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities;
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers;
- the complex moral, social, economical and political issues surrounding drugs.
- The use of prescribed medicines and drugs for health purposes.

The policy also aims to develop pupil's personal and social skills in order to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy, including:

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- communicating effectively
- resisting pressures
- finding information, help and advice
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies
- developing self awareness and self esteem

The Scheme of Work enables pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influence.

Context

Drug education should be delivered through the Jigsaw curriculum because it focuses on providing pupils with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes.

Teachers are expected to use the following:

- the non-statutory framework for PSHCE and Citizenship at Key Stage 2
- the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science order for all phases as the basis for developing drug education.

Drug Education needs to be delivered in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Therefore, it is essential that clear ground rules are negotiated with pupils regarding confidentiality, rights to privacy and respect and boundaries. Young people should be actively encouraged to participate in their own learning and to question and think critically.

Delivery should include a wide range of teaching and learning approaches and the core principles of these include:

- ensuring that every pupil succeeds through the provision of an inclusive education within a culture of high expectations
- the purpose of each lesson is made clear
- time is given for pupils to reflect, consolidate and apply their learning
- pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to record their own progress
- building on what learners already know: structure and pace of the lesson so that pupils know what has to be learnt and how
- making learning vivid and real – develop understanding through enquiry, e-learning and group problem solving
- making learning an enjoyable and challenging experience – stimulate learning by matching teaching techniques and strategies to a range of learning styles
- enriching the learning experience – infuse learning skills across the curriculum
- promoting assessment for learning – make pupils/young people partners in their own learning.

A wide range of active learning approaches should be used to ensure that all young people actively participate.

If using ICT to do any work surrounding drugs and alcohol, children are reminded to use the Internet and ICT resources safely and responsibly. They are encouraged to review the Acceptable Use Policy. There is guidance for the safe use of the Internet in the school's Internet and E-Safety Policies.

Teachers are always best placed to take the lead role for the overall drugs programme but outside contributors can play a valuable role in supporting schools Teachers also need to ensure that the resources they use are relevant, up to date and appropriate in order to meet the needs of the children in their care.

Staff Development and Support

All staff should have general drug awareness and a good understanding of the school's policy for drug education and the management of drug related incidents and any other related policies.

It is essential that all staff involved in the teaching of drug education have the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge to enable them when working with young people to confidently address drugs and drug related issues. Activities to help their development can include:

- team teaching or teachers observing other skilled staff with ongoing support from a coach/mentor
- participating in collaborative enquiry and action research supported by teaching networks
- regular and updated training courses with support to apply learning in the classroom. This includes accessing the support of and working with various agencies and organisations when delivering education, training or dealing with incidents.

Multi Agency Approach

The school works hard to provide a wide range of teaching and learning opportunities for the children.

As an inclusive school it is important to us that all children have access to the same curriculum and support is provided to allow all children to access the lessons and resources appropriate to their age and level of understanding.

Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

This process should relate to the overall PSHE framework set by the school. The progress in Drug Education should form part of the overall progress in PSHE and appear as such in the annual report to parents. Any aspects relating to the science curriculum should form part of the relevant science report.

Monitoring and evaluating enables the school to identify the relevance and effectiveness of the drug education programme through the teaching activities and resources used and whether they meet the needs and interests of the young people. The pupils should also be encouraged to reflect on the main issues of their learning

Managing Drug Related Incidents

Definition

A drug related incident is defined at Hamworthy Park Junior School as any person on the premises, be it pupil, staff member, parent, carer or visitor, who is under the influence or in possession of intoxicating substances. It may also refer to incidents out of school which directly affect Hamworthy Park Junior School children and their immediate families.

Mr Damian Hewitt, Executive Headteacher is the named staff member responsible for co-ordinating the schools response to drug incidents.

The primary concern for the school is the care and welfare of its pupils. The school will seek to balance the safety and security of pupils.

There are a number of young people in schools and other educational establishments who may require medication to be administered during the school day. Pupils with medical conditions requiring this on a regular basis should be made known to all staff and members of the school community.

Medication for pupils, if Asthma related, is kept in the school office, and administered by themselves or a named First Aider, as and when necessary. If a child is attending school and requires medication during the day, the parents/carers are requested to inform the school to give the relevant dose as prescribed by their Doctor. A list of pupils with medical conditions is updated at the start of each new academic year, and each class teacher has the list appropriate to their class. A whole school list of pupils with medical conditions is also available in the school office.

The school has a number of staff who have been trained as first aiders. The children know how to gain help via the Staff, and lunchtime Supervisors.

The school will follow the law in that it permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purpose of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all responsible steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. This will usually be performed with the assistance of the police on occasions which do not involve alcohol or tobacco, (which will be destroyed on the premises). In issues concerning drug paraphernalia the police will always be contacted.

The school will involve parents/ carers in personal searches and searches of school property, but at all times with at least two members of the school staff in attendance.

Circumstances Defining Where Parents/Carers or Other Agencies Including the Police may need to be notified.

Schools are recommended to conduct a careful investigation to judge the nature and seriousness of each incident. The emphasis should be on listening to what people have to say and asking open-ended questions. Schools should consider separating any pupils involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present. Issues such as confidentiality, child protection, police intervention and referral to external agencies need to be given careful attention to safeguard the needs of those involved and to ensure an appropriate response is taken. Any incident involving the misuse of drugs will take account of:

- the age and maturity of the child or young person
- any previous incidents of drug misuse by the child or young person
- which drug/s are being used/supplied
- is the drug legal or illegal
- how much is being used and how often
- how they take the drug, where, with whom
- how long has it been going on
- the child's home circumstances

- pupil's knowledge and understanding of the school policy

Any response should balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community, and aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

Drug/alcohol related problems are rarely, if ever, isolated and are usually indicative of wider issues in a young person's life. A holistic approach is essential when assessing drug/alcohol use and other factors that are impacting on a young person's life and behaviour. Schools should develop a range of responses in line with local protocols. Schools have a role in identifying pupils who have drug related needs. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a more detailed assessment of their needs. The Drug and Alcohol Action Team Screening Tool may prove useful in identifying the most appropriate response to individuals' needs.

Staff have no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police but all incidents will be reported to the Borough. However, schools need to work in partnership with the police to outline:

- when an incident can be managed internally by the school
- when the police should be informed or consulted
- when the police should be actively involved
- when a pupil's name can be withheld and when it should be divulged to the police

Schools should make a full record of unauthorised drug incidents. Storage of sensitive information about pupils or staff should be stored in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

If incidents involve a child then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead, will consult all relevant agencies as well as calling the parent/ carer into school to collect or discuss the pupil.

Hamworthy Park Junior School believes in the notion that:

“Inclusion in mainstream education provides the structure and stability necessary when drug/alcohol and other problems are evident in a young person's life and contributes to reducing other vulnerabilities.”

Where school feels it has no choice but to suspend or expel pupils, it needs to ensure that there are adequate and appropriate care pathways available to the young people and their families/carers.

Confidentiality

All drug related incidents will be treated in accordance with the Schools Confidentiality policy.

Responsibilities

The schools Governing Body will take an active part in overseeing drug incidents in the school.

Links to other Policies

There are numerous links to other Hamworthy Park Junior School policies that include:

PSHE

Safeguarding

Health and Safety

First Aid

Confidentiality

E-Safety

The whole school community shares a responsibility in the successful implementation of this policy.