

Boothferry Primary School

Drugs Policy

Introduction

Unfortunately, we live in a drug-consuming community. Schools are an integral part of the community and therefore may come into contact with drug related issues in a variety of ways. At Boothferry Primary this fact is recognised and through the effective implementation of this policy the school aims to ensure that the school community is protected, supported and educated regarding drug related issues. The children are encouraged to respect their bodies and exercise control over what goes into them in an informed and health-promoting manner.

Policy Context

This policy is based on local and national information, including the LEA drug education support personnel and the NAHT drug education model policy. Community involvement in its development was achieved through the inclusion of staff, parents/carers and governors in the consultation process. Ongoing involvement of the pupils in drug education will contribute to the further development of the school's approach to drugs.

Approval and adoption of this policy is minuted in the appropriate Governing Body minutes.

This policy stands alongside other school policies and information found in the school's Information for Parents on medicines in school, behaviour, child protection and school visits.

A copy of this policy is given to all relevant staff and other relevant persons. A reference copy is kept in the policy file in the Headteacher's office.

Moral and Values Framework

The school aims to maintain a healthy and health promoting atmosphere and community within a framework of accepted positive values.

Definitions

A drug is any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates a change in perception and/or mood and/or how the body functions.

Aims

The school aims to deliver a well-planned, coherent and co-ordinated drug education programme to all pupils in line with DCfS statutory and non-statutory guidelines.

Our school aims to:

- develop and raise self-esteem
- enable informed choices to be made
- develop appropriate personal and social skills
- support emotional development
- explore and promote strategies for healthy lifestyles
- provide a safe and secure environment
- offer support, help and advice on drug related issues whenever possible
- provide appropriate drug education (see later)

Staff knowledge and understanding

To enable the fulfilment of this policy staff development will ensure that:

- staff will have access to a basic level of information about drugs and drug issues through in-house training events;
- staff have access to a guide to the identification of drugs and the basic knowledge to recognise the signs and symptoms of drug misuse;
- staff have the basic knowledge and understanding necessary to deal with issues which may arise;
- staff have the relevant knowledge and understanding to teach the appropriate drug education curriculum;
- whenever necessary the PSHCE Coordinator will consult with staff to make judgements regarding the need for further training;
- staff have the opportunity to express their own needs regarding training in this area.

The school will continue to develop a resource of drug-related information, which staff can access.

Drug Education

Aim 1: The curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve

In terms of drug and alcohol education it should ... develop (pupils) physical skills and encourage them to recognise the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves and others safe.....DfES /QCA 2000

Aim 2: The school curriculum should aim to promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

These two aims reinforce each other. The personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and to achieve. Development in both areas is essential to raising standards of attainment of all pupils.

Drug education will usually be delivered by class teachers using both cross-curricular and discrete programmes within the personal, social, health and citizenship education provided by the school. This will be supported by the use of recognised outside agencies and other approved speakers abiding by this policy.

Drugs Education will be coordinated by the PSHCE Coordinator.

The programmes will be reviewed by the teachers involved in teaching them, in consultation with the PSHCE Coordinator.

The overall provision will be monitored by the Headteacher, in partnership with the PSHCE Co-ordinator.

Opportunities for drug and alcohol education exist within:

- The PSHCE curriculum
- The Science and English Curriculum
- Circle Time
- School assemblies
- Special events in school e.g. healthy eating week, visiting speakers, Captain Kipper, Health Education caravan, no smoking day.
- Student Councils

Drug and alcohol education will be delivered through the science aspect of our thematic curriculum and/or PSHCE. This will be delivered by staff and be enhanced by the use of outside speakers/visitors where appropriate.

The school's drug education curriculum will both support and enhance the expectations found in the National Curriculum orders for science and the frameworks for PSHCE.

Drug Education objectives can be found within the school's drug education planning framework based on the Health for Life documentation.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The school's PSHCE Coordinator will have responsibility for monitoring drug education. Monitoring of drug education will form part of the whole schools monitoring policy/action plan which is the overall responsibility of the Headteacher.

The Law and Legal Issues

- See DfES Circular 0092/2004 Section 4. Drugs; Guidance for Schools
- Refer to the LEA Guidelines on the Management of Drug related Incidents

Managing drug related issues

General points

All staff must be alert to the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is misusing drugs.

The named person with responsibility for drug related issues may be the first point of contact for staff, but drug related issues will always be referred to the Headteacher. Any such incidents should be dealt with confidentially and logged by the Headteacher accordingly.

It is recognised that incidents involving drugs may be symptomatic of other problems and difficulties in the pupil's life and all incidents of this nature will be handled sensitively and result in supportive outcomes for the needs of the individual.

The school will seek to work in partnership with parents, outside agencies and appropriate authorities. This may involve seeking appropriate counselling. The caretaker will regularly check the premises for signs of drug misuse and inform the Headteacher accordingly.

The expectation of the school is that no pupil or adult will come onto the school site under the influence of, or in possession of drugs (except for prescribed medicines). The procedures below will be followed in instances where this is not the case. In most of these cases one of the school's designated first aiders may need to be involved and the Headteacher should always be informed.

School procedures

Tobacco

The school's policy on smoking clearly prohibits smoking on the school premises and supports the policy of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Tobacco brought to school by pupils will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. If a pupil continues to bring tobacco into school then further action, which may be exclusion or informing the police regarding the reasonable suspicion of sale of tobacco to children under the age of 16, will be taken. Health Education and Health Promotion work in the school will promote the view that tobacco is a drug and is very hazardous to health. In addition to this, this policy includes the use of E-Cigarettes.

Alcohol

Sale of alcohol to under 18s is an offence and reasonable suspicion of such activity involving pupils at the school will be reported to the parents and the police.

Should a pupil be found drunk at the school all appropriate steps will be taken to ensure their safe removal from the premises. This will usually be done by informing the parents, but the police or ambulance service will be involved if necessary. Alcohol brought to school by pupils will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. If a pupil continues to bring alcohol into school then further action, which may be exclusion or informing the police regarding the reasonable suspicion of sale of alcohol to children under the age of 18, will be taken. Health Education and Health Promotion work in the school will promote the view that alcohol is a drug and can be hazardous to health.

Solvents

Should a pupil be found under the influence of solvent intoxication at the school immediate medical attention will be sought and, if possible, a sample of the substance will be made available to the medical authorities. The child's parents will be informed and asked to remove the child from the premises once medical attention has been given. Solvents brought to school by pupils which are suspected to be for abuse purposes will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. If a pupil continues to bring such solvents into school then further action, which may be exclusion, will be taken. Health Education and Health Promotion work in the school will promote the view that solvent abuse is very hazardous to health.

Controlled Drugs

Should a pupil be found positively under the influence of drug abuse at the school immediate medical attention will be sought and, if possible, a sample of the substance will be made available to the medical authorities. The police will be informed immediately. The child's parents will be informed and asked to remove the child from the premises once medical attention and police permission have been given.

Drugs found at the school will be secured in a locked box, locked in the school office and labelled with the date, time, place of discovery and signature of the finder - details of the find will be kept. Drugs which are suspected to be for abuse purposes will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. Drug taking equipment will be dealt with in a similar way. The police will always be informed.

Cases involving children and controlled drugs will be considered individually regarding further action, which may be exclusion. Health Education and Health Promotion work in the school will promote the view that drug abuse is very hazardous to health.

In cases where a pupil or other person is found to be supplying or offering to supply controlled drugs (drug pushing) the police will be informed immediately.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

These issues need to be clearly defined as ground rules at the start of drug education lessons for the benefit of both pupils and staff. It must be made clear to pupils that the divulgence of any information deemed to fall into the *significant harm category or putting pupils at risk* **must** be referred to the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Disclosure

If a pupil makes a disclosure about the use of illegal substances the Headteacher must be informed immediately by the member of staff to whom the disclosure was made.

Searching

Where the Headteacher or a member of staff has reason to believe that a pupil's bag/bookfolder contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs, a search will be conducted. If a pupil is suspected of having illegal drugs on their person they will be requested to voluntarily produce any unlawful substances. If the pupil refuses the Police will be called in to deal with the situation.

Staff or other persons under the influence of drugs

Staff or other persons on the school site believed to be under the influence of drugs and having a detrimental effect upon the education of the pupils or causing a health, safety or security hazard will be requested to leave (so long as it is safe to do so) by the Headteacher. On no account will the individual be pursued. If necessary the relevant authorities will be informed.

Disposal of needles and syringes

Needles and syringes will be handled with extreme care and only by authorised personnel wearing suitable protective clothing. They will be placed into a box specifically for their storage and taken as soon as possible to the needle disposal centre or handed to the relevant authorities. The caretaker monitors the school grounds as a matter of routine. All finds are reported to the Headteacher and logged. The pupils are regularly informed of their routine should they find suspicious items on the school premises - the basic rule is do not touch, tell a member of staff.

Prescribed medicines in school

The school does not allow children to bring or take medicines in school, except in particular circumstances. See Information for Parents document. Staff who bring medicines to school must ensure it is kept on their person or out of reach of children, preferably in a locked area.

Further issues

The school will consult with the police if any suspicious substance, materials or drug taking paraphernalia is found on the school premises. A log number will be collected and the incident recorded by the Headteacher.

In instances when the school becomes positively aware of a pupil being involved in illegal or dangerous activities involving drugs during out of school hours the school will inform the parents and the police if appropriate. This action will be undertaken in a sensitive and supportive manner.

If there is any doubt concerning the safety of a pupil in the home when a drug related incident has been reported to parents, the Social Services will be alerted.

In instances where a child may bring an unknown substance to school which is thought to be drug related the school will confiscate the substance. An explanation will be sought and the procedures outlined earlier will be followed. If a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming from the child the parents will be contacted and other agencies will be involved if necessary.

Community

Whenever necessary, appropriate and possible the school will seek to work in partnership with the local community, parents, outside agencies and relevant authorities in areas considered within this policy.

Parents will be informed regarding significant issues through newsletters and other communications including parents meetings with invited guest speakers if necessary.

In the event of a drug related incident and media involvement, the school will contact the Council media liaison officer and any other relevant person for advice before making comment.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has an overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy. The school governors will monitor and support this responsibility.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff under the co-ordination of the PSHCE Co-ordinator whose role is to:

- develop expertise in this area
- collect information, materials and drug education resources
- maintain and keep drug education resources up to date
- foster staff expertise, knowledge and understanding
- support staff with regard to drug related issues
- report drug related issues to the Headteacher
- link with relevant outside agencies
- support the school's role with parents and the community
- liaise with other establishments regarding drugs
- monitor the provision of Drug Education in partnership with the Headteacher

Evaluation

The Headteacher and PSHCE Coordinator will continually monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by reference to the ongoing achievement of its stated aims and procedures.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years unless circumstances demand an earlier review.

September 2015