

WOODLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Why do we have a drug education policy?

We are committed to investing in our pupil's health and well-being, because we believe doing so will assist the process of raising their achievements. Drugs education is an important issue that is both essential and relevant to children in the real world and we acknowledge that the use of drugs affects all communities in modern society. Through our approaches to drugs education we are seeking to develop and enhance life skills that can be built on and which will help them in the future.

What is Drug education?

For the purpose of this policy and our drugs education programme, drugs are defined as: *a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave*. Our school uses the term 'drug' to include, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, prescribed and over the counter medicines, solvents and illegal drugs.

Drugs Education is part of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

We have a moral and legal obligation to the children in our care to address this issue and to ensure that we do all we can to:

- inform pupils, parents and staff about the risks and consequences of drug misuse, including alcohol, tobacco and solvents
- teach young people the skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs, included in a more integrated approach to Health Education, with particular reference to government and local authority guidance and guidance from the local healthy schools programme
- help make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable to young people
- promote healthy lifestyles and activities

Aims

Set in the broader context of personal, social and health education, our drugs education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We need to equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

In our school we will aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- increase pupils' knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol abuse, the use of solvents and drug abuse
- help pupils to understand the beneficial part drugs play in society
- teach children that all medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines
- educate pupils on how to make informed choices, providing opportunities to examine attitudes and values to drug use
- teach strategies to help pupils resist pressure from their peers
- develop personal initiative and the ability to take responsibility
- enable pupils to recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- enable pupils to develop self confidence and assertiveness in appropriate situations
- enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate help for their personal safety

Drug Education in the Curriculum

The school acknowledges that a positive, health promoting ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in doing so helps to build self esteem and self images that may help pupils to cope more effectively in drug related situations. Drug education is provided within a broader framework of our PSHE Scheme of Work where wider issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility can be addressed and where drug misuse prevention is but one component. In addition, the statutory science curriculum provides opportunities for drug education.

The Non-Statutory guidance for PSHE outlines that pupils should be taught:

At KS1 - that household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.

At KS2 - which, why and how, commonly available substances and drugs (including alcohol, tobacco and 'energy drinks') can damage their immediate and future health and safety; that some are restricted and some are illegal to own, use and give to others

and

that pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources ...how to ask for help and the basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.

and

to recognise when they need help and to develop the skills to ask for help; to use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do something dangerous, unhealthy, that makes them uncomfortable or anxious or that they think is wrong

A wide range of active learning approaches is used to ensure that all children are able to actively participate in drugs education activities. These include circle time, role-play and drama, poetry, group discussion and use of ICT.

These strategies enable pupils to:

- place new learning in the context of previous experience
- explore currently held personal and cultural beliefs and values in the context of new learning
- apply new learning to other situations
- relate new knowledge to current behaviour, so as to be able to make and act on informed choices
- actively consider the implications of the learning for themselves, society and the environment

The lead role for the overall drugs education programme is taken by teachers but outside visitors play a valuable supporting role. Visiting speakers from the community e.g. health specialists, community police officers make planned inputs to fit into and complement the programme.

It is essential that all staff have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to enable them to confidently teach the schemes of work and training courses are available to support this development.

Drug Incidents

All forms of illegal substance are forbidden on the school premises. All Surrey schools have a no smoking policy which must be adhered to by all on the premises.

A drug related incident is defined as the misuse of any drug by any person on the premises be it pupil, parent, carer or visitor. In the event of any drug related incident, staff should immediately inform the Head Teacher who will then assess:

- the legal requirements
- the involvement under defined circumstances of outside agencies, including informing the police where appropriate
- the types of behaviour, and the school's proposed course of action in response to them.
- the involvement of parents
- arrangements for recording incidents and informing others of incidents, for example the LA or local Drugs Action Team
- health and welfare procedures

Parental Involvement

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider school community for the drug education programme. Copies of this policy and other related policies for Safeguarding and RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) are available to parents and they are encouraged to discuss with staff at school any concerns they may have about drug related issues.

The school recognises that pupils who may have a parent or carer who uses drugs (legal and or illegal) can be problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally. Key staff involved in such support will receive suitable guidance in this area.

Administration of medicines

Details of the school's policy on the storage and administration of medicines is contained in our 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy'. Our management of medicines is designed to visibly and consistently reinforce our teaching and learning objectives on the safe use of medicines.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the school community. Whilst members of staff will provide support, they work within child protection guidelines and must clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee

confidentiality. Only in exceptional circumstances would sensitive information be passed on against a pupil's wishes but staff may have a moral, professional or legal duty to do so.

Equal Opportunities

This policy will be implemented in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body of the school has responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the drug education programme, delegated to the head teacher and teaching staff. Monitoring and evaluating enables the school to identify the relevance and effectiveness of the drug education programme and this is carried out by the PSHE coordinator. The policy will be reviewed annually, or in the light of any incident, and updated as necessary.

Approved by Governing Body: 30.3.2021
To be reviewed: March 2023