



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

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. 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 governors 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. Teachers will answer questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In 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 (PSHCE) curriculum. In teaching about drugs we follow the guidelines provided by the LA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.
- 2.3** Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. 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 Head Teacher

- 3.1** It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head Teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 3.2** The Head Teacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- 3.3** The Head Teacher will monitor the policy regularly and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

4 The role of governors

The Governing Body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines. Governors will liaise with the LA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

5 The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;

6 Monitoring and review

The curriculum committee of the governing body on a 3 yearly basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

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