

# Mountfields Lodge Primary School



## Drug Education Policy (and Handling a Drug-Related Incident (DRI))

**Aim High, Reach for the Sky**

## **Drug Education Policy**

### **Introduction**

We recognise that within society children as they grow up, and as adults, could be in situations where they are exposed to drug use. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable children to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance.

The term 'drug', throughout this document, includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

This policy document identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum.

### **Policy Development and Review**

The policy was devised by the PHCE co-ordinator, through consultation between staff, governors and parents.

**Appendix 1 sets out the procedures at our school for dealing with Drug Related Incidents.**

### **Aims and Objectives**

This school believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

We have prioritised the following objectives:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs, so they can distinguish different drugs, consider their use, misuse benefits and harm.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use/misuse
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practice the skills they need to ensure personal safety and avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To encourage children to act confidently and responsibly as individuals, family members and citizens

In order to achieve this, Drug Education will begin at an early age, and be reinforced throughout the Primary years.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Drug education at Mountfields Lodge is delivered through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches, with a more tailored approach used where individual circumstances require this.

Drug Education will include:

- school rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs
- information about how the body works and how to take care of it
- the role of medicines in promoting health and the reasons people use them
- different types of medicines, legal and illegal drugs including their form, effects and associated risks
- safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents
- introduction to the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs
- people who are involved with medicines, such as health professionals, pharmacists and shopkeepers
- seeking help for self and others
- dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.

The above aspects of Drug Education are planned into the school curriculum within Science and PHSE, and through whole school events such as a 'Health Week'. Drug Education is planned so that it is age appropriate and relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible, and develops, as pupils grow older. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to talk openly and honestly. In order to effectively cover all aspects of drug education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed.

**KS1** – Children learn that all medicines are drugs and that these medicines are useful to us when they are taken properly. They also learn that some materials are harmful to us.

**Y3/4** – In Year 3/4 children learn that smoking and drinking alcohol can have a negative effect on the human body.

**Y5/6** – Children learn in more detail how smoking and alcohol affects health, the effects of some nutrients on the human body and the names and effects of some illegal drugs.

When children require a more individual approach to drug education, our Children's Mentor works, in liaison with the class teacher, head teacher and outside agencies as appropriate, with these children in one-to-one or small group sessions.

### **Resources**

Resources that support this area of the curriculum will be up-to date, relevant to pupils and presented in ways that are consistent with the fundamental aims of PSHE. Overall responsibility for drug education resources is held by the co-coordinator. Parents will have access to information about drug education through leaflets in the foyer.

### **External Agencies and Services**

The school actively encourages the involvement of external agencies and services in supporting the delivery of Drug Education. Their contribution will complement other teaching and be appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils involved. Class teachers will always be involved so they can deal with questions and concerns.

Drug Education is enhanced through visits from the 'Life Education Bus' and other outside agencies.

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

The assessment, recording and reporting of drug education will take place in accordance with school policy.

Understanding in drug education will be demonstrated through **assessment** against learning objectives, which will be built into curriculum planning. A variety of assessment techniques will be used, including draw and write, discussion, quizzes, scrutiny of work and pupil self- assessment, peer assessment and project assessment.

### **Confidentiality**

With the children's help, ground rules are established in lessons to ensure confidentiality is maintained. Pupils are made aware that there may be instances where confidentiality has to be broken by staff, but only when this will be in their best interests. A member of staff who has reason to believe a child is vulnerable to drug misuse will inform the Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding as soon as is practical.

### **Equal Opportunities Statement**

Our Drugs Education policy is intended to promote self-esteem and the ability to make life choices for all our pupils and to be equally accessible to them regardless of ability, social and cultural background, religion, sexual orientation, physical or emotional needs.

### **Management and Co-ordination**

In accordance with government guidance, this school has a member of staff who is responsible for the provision. This responsibility is held by the PSHE Coordinator. The co-coordinator has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to staff, governors and parents.

They will therefore ensure that:

- The Drug Education Policy is shared to all members of the school community and is understood
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified
- The underpinning aims and values of drug education are made explicit
- The development of good relationships between the school, parents and other agencies
- The equality of opportunity is promoted
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development within the field of drug education
- The link is made explicit between drug education and other school policies

Class teachers will be responsible for delivering drug education within the curriculum and for developing **planning** which will include clearly identified learning outcomes. The school will ensure **progression and continuity** in all aspects of drug education, through monitoring carried out by the PHCE co-coordinator.

### **Staffing and Staff Development**

All staff need access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education curriculum and its style of delivery. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities.

Areas of staff expertise and individual staff development will be identified through existing staff development systems.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Effectiveness of drug education, including the personal development of pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by PHSE and Citizenship co-coordinator. This will be done through: learning walks, pupil attitude surveys, discussion with staff, parents and children, pupil interviews, review of resources and schemes of work, evaluations of events.

### **This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies –**

Child Protection  
Behaviour  
PSHE  
Healthy Lifestyles  
Medications

## Appendix 1

### **Managing Drug Related Incidents**

We acknowledge that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. We also recognise that drug related incidents may take place during school activities and outside of school, all of which are covered by the scope of this policy. We have identified a range of responses, incorporating liaison with parents (in line with legal requirements for confidentiality), consequences in line with the school behaviour policy and counselling, which reflect different kinds of drug-related offences.

**In all cases the Head teacher should be informed immediately.**

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance. The school will also liaise with the police, children's services and health professionals as appropriate, where there is reason to believe that a drug related incident has occurred.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds. Any disregard for school restrictions on smoking will be treated as any other breach of school discipline.

Where children are known to be smoking the Children's Mentor, in conjunction with parents and the school nurse will work with the children to support them. The head teacher will consider the merits of individual cases when deciding which consequences are appropriate.

### **Searching and confiscating an illegal drug**

Where there is reason to believe that a child has an illegal drug in their possession, staff will initially encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. If the child does not comply, the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher will decide whether it is appropriate to search the child in line with the guidance set out in the Education Act 1996 (inserted by 242 of the ASCLA 2009) or contact the Police Schools Liaison Officer.

Where drugs are found in school, they will be immediately handed to the head teacher who will arrange for their secure storage until they are handed over to the Police, in order to keep our children safe.

We will always inform parents if the police are called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our pupils, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously over-react and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies.

Where it is believed a child is exposed to drug misuse outside of school, we will liaise with the LA Children's Services and other agencies as appropriate, in line with Safeguarding procedures. Staff in school, particularly the Children's Mentor will support the child through a more personalised approach.