

WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

"...putting children first..."



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Date reviewed: January 2021

Reviewed by: S Neary

Ratified by Governors: January 2021

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

A drug is a substance that can cause a physiological and/or psychological change in a body that can be either negative or positive. The term 'drugs' refers to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

Drug use is drug taking, for example, consuming alcohol, taking medication or using illegal drugs. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, whether through intoxication, breach of the law or of school rules, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately apparent. Drug use will require interventions such as management, education, advice and information, and prevention work to reduce the potential harm.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour and require specific interventions, including treatment.

This policy is in accordance with:

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Management of Health and Safety at work Regulations 1999

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)
Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, September 2012:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

Pupils should be taught:

To recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function. Pupils should learn how to keep their bodies healthy and how their bodies might be damaged – including how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body. ***DfE Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2 (2013).***

There is a need to recognise the growing pressure of drug misuse in the community at large. Drug education is an entitlement for every pupil and is supported by Section 351, of the Education Act 1996 which requires every school to provide a balanced curriculum.

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to: minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use; delay the age of onset of first use; reduce the harm caused by drugs; and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

DfE (September 2014) **DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools**

BACKGROUND

"Many skills and attitudes will already have been acquired before children reach the primary school and many decisions on life-style will be taken after leaving the primary stage of education.

During the primary school years children are growing and developing extremely rapidly, not merely physically, but also socially, intellectually, emotionally, morally and spiritually.

Not all of the influences on young people may be positive, some may be negative. Many children will acquire an incomplete, misleading or false set of expectations and assumptions in substantial areas of health behaviour. These may lead to such practices as smoking, drinking, taking risks and so on, in an effort to achieve what is conceived as "normal" status in adolescence and adulthood.

A programme of education aimed at Key Stage 1 and 2 should reach most children before their attitudes have hardened and habits have become ingrained. Teachers need to recognise the strength of early influences and to provide opportunities for children to consider and discuss possible courses of action before they are forced to make "crisis" decisions."

Northern Ireland Guide-lines

AIMS and OBJECTIVES of SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY (Circular No.4/95 DFE)

The aim of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.

OBJECTIVES

1. To increase KNOWLEDGE, change ATTITUDES and enhance SKILLS

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs

2. Behaviour

- To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse
- To delay the age of onset of the first use for those who do experiment at any time
- To minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse
- To persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help

3. Citizenship

- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum
- To enhance young people's capacity to contribute to school policies on drug misuse and wider community matters

- To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle

MORALS and VALUES FRAMEWORK

The school does not accept the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school community.

The school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

We try to promote the aims of Whitehills Primary School through our core values of respect, responsibility and hard work:

- To engender respect and caring for others
- To help each child to attain his/her full potential in all respects, physical, mental, moral, spiritual, emotional, cultural and social
- To encourage self-respect, self-discipline and self-confidence
- To establish a policy of trust, honesty and openness.

CONTENT HEADINGS for SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Provisions will be made so that all pupils will have access to the JIGSAW PSHE programme.

ORGANISATION of SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION

Name of co-ordinators responsible for planning and delivery – Senior Management Team.

Who will teach it? - Drug prevention should be seen as a whole school issue and that each staff member, both teaching and non-teaching, has a part to play. Outside speakers must be committed to working within the policy.

Methodology and approach, including explicitness and handling of controversial topics:

1. We will seek to provide pupils with the skills that will help them resist the pressure to experiment with drugs and will help them to build positive attitudes towards living healthy lives.
2. Drug education is to be provided as part of the science curriculum and as part of the broader PSHE programme JIGSAW.
3. Drug education will be taught as part of an integrated programme of health education through the JIGSAW PSHE units, 'Healthy Me', 'Changing Me' and 'Relationships'. The JIGSAW programme is a spiralling curriculum showing progression through the key stages. The emphasis will be on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and forming positive relationships, providing young people the knowledge and the skills to make informed and responsible choices now and later in life.
4. A strong, clear and consistent message will be offered about the dangerous effects of drugs; however, we will not frighten pupils by teaching it in isolation.

5. The teacher needs to have accurate and up to date information on the law, the physiological and psychological effects of drugs and understand the implications for the individual, the family and the wider society.

SPECIFIC ISSUE STATEMENTS

Management of incidents in school – Headteacher plus Senior Management Team, who will then inform the Chair of Governors.

Who handles confiscated drugs/information received/ discipline and providing help? – Headteacher, Senior Management Team and appropriate services/agencies.

(Teachers and non-teaching staff should be alert to the warning signs that may indicate that a pupil is misusing drugs, through safeguarding meetings.)

The site supervisor must check daily for used syringes or discarded needles and have made arrangements with the local authority's environmental services department for the safe and secure disposal of dangerous matter.

Teachers should be prepared to deal with a drug-related medical emergency by calling on a trained first aider and calling for professional medical help.

The Headteacher will always be notified and attempts will be made to contact the pupil's parents.

Where a pupil has been identified by the school as having experimented with illegal drugs or as being at particular risk of doing so, consideration will be given to the provision of appropriate counselling and support within the school's general pastoral arrangements. Specialised agencies, support and counselling agencies may be used if appropriate.

Teachers approached by a pupil for advice on illegal drug misuse, or if a pupil discloses information on illegal drug misuse, will treat the information as confidential but in accordance with the Head's Legal Guide 3/362 to 3/366 will pass it on to the appropriate services.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession. They should hand the substance to the police who will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug. School staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance.

A member of staff can ask a pupil if they may search their bag where he or she has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs.

The staff will always remove suspect substances in the presence of a witness.

In exceptional cases the police may interview pupils on school premises, with the teacher's agreement and provided efforts have been made to inform the pupil's parents.

Where a teacher is told, or is aware, of possible criminal activity outside school premises, the police will be informed in the interests of safeguarding the health and safety of young people in the area.

The Headteacher will retain the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking into account the factors such as the age of the pupil concerned and whether there is evidence of peer group pressure.

In the event of staff being concerned that a child is in jeopardy because of parents' use of drugs, then, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be contacted and safeguarding procedures should be adhered. Formal recording on the MyConcern tool should occur once there has been a disclosure/concern.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

We sometimes work with the Coram Life Education Mobile classroom in providing a systematic and structured approach to healthy lifestyles. We have the classroom visit once per year, budget permitting.

The school nurse also supports us in this work by talking to Key Stage 1 pupils about medicines and drugs. PCSOs and the Magistrates service work with Year 6 to enhance the children's knowledge.

PROCEDURES for POLICY MONITORING and EVALUATION

Co-ordinator for Drugs Education: Mrs. Natalie James

Reviewed by: Serena Neary

Review Date: January 2021

Next Review Date: January 2023

Annex A– Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/ 14

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885
Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk