Great Hucklow Primary School

Drug Education Policy
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In designing and implementing policies, the school aims to demonstrate its positive approach to inclusion.

Introduction

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

Drug education is a responsibility we share with parents, families and the wider community. It is taught through subjects such as science and PSHE. It is also taught discreetly when pupils are in Year 5 & 6.

The purpose of the policy

The purpose of the drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents and carers and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.

Definition of drugs

This policy uses the definition that a drug is:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”

(United Nations office on drugs and crime)

The term drugs includes:

- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled.
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
- All illegal drugs.
Drug Education

The teaching of drug education is essential; it provides children with the information about what is good and what is harmful and gives them the skills to use this knowledge.

Aims and objectives of drug education

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

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils’ self-esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

Objectives

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

At an appropriate age, pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand what is meant by ‘a drug’ and the definition of ‘addiction’.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.

Methodology

We use a variety of teaching approaches including:

- role play
- discussions and activities with a class or group
- visits from healthcare professionals
- the use of relevant TV programmes, internet sites or videos
- whole school assemblies.
**Curriculum Content**

Some aspects of drug education are a statutory requirement as part of the National Curriculum Science Order. This states that pupils should be taught:

- At Key Stage 1 (5-7 years old) about the role of drugs as medicines
- At Key Stage 2 (7-11 years old) about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other substances and how these relate to their personal health.

**Organisation**

Drug Education will be provided as part of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), science and English, as part of a pupil's life skills and preparation for adulthood.

Each class teacher will take responsibility for the teaching of Drug Education.

**Equality of opportunity**

It is important to give children a broad and balanced view of the world we live in.

Drug Education is essential if we want our children to grow up with the knowledge and strategies required to recognise and reduce drug misuse within the country.

All children at Great Hucklow School, from the Foundation Stage upwards, will receive some form of Drug Education. This will be presented in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse.

**Management of drugs at school**

The first concern in managing drugs or a drugs incident is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils.

As this is a rural, primary school we don’t encounter community drug use or disused needles on a regular basis. As such our coverage of drug safety is fairly low key. The subject of drugs is on our safety awareness programme and children will be made aware of the dangers of prescription drugs and disused hypodermic needles during this talk.

**Medicines**

Medicines are administered in line with the school's Administration of Medicines Procedures. Please refer to these procedures for further information.
Tobacco
In accordance with the school’s No Smoking Policy, smoking is not permitted within the school building or grounds. Please refer to the No Smoking Policy for further information.

Alcohol
Alcohol is sometimes sold at school during functions. A licence to sell alcohol is sought on these occasions. In the unlikely event that a child was found to have brought alcohol to school, it would be confiscated and the parents informed.

Solvents
The school ensures that potentially harmful substances are stored safely in areas where children would not have unsupervised access.

Illegal Substances
The possession, use, or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school grounds is clearly unacceptable. In the extremely unlikely event of dealing with any such incident, the school’s primary concern would be the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole.

Procedures for handling and reporting drug related incidents
A suspected drug related incident is described as

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- An adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident

The incident would be reported to the Headteacher in the first instance. The parents would also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved.
**Confidentiality**

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure and the headteacher would be informed.

**Monitoring and Review**

The suitability and effectiveness of this policy will be regularly reviewed.

This policy has been approved by the school’s Governing Body on........................................ and is subject to a three yearly review.