

SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Development Process, Dissemination, Monitoring and Review

This policy was developed and agreed in consultation with governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, parents, pupils and other relevant agents e.g. school nurse.

The policy reflects national guidance and priorities as outlined in DfE Drug and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools (January 2012), the Updated Drug Strategy (2010), National Healthy School Standard, Q.C.A. Curriculum Guidance (2002) and OfSTED Report on Drugs Education 2005. This policy relates to the school's P.S.H.E. policy, confidentiality policy, behaviour policy and health and safety policy.

The policy will be reviewed every two years by the head teacher, Governors and PSHE subject leader. This will include evaluation of teaching and learning activities, resources, staff training requirement and the use of visitors. Evaluation tools could include discussion groups and feedback from external inspection. The policy will also be revisited and reviewed at any time the school has to address a drug related incident.

Definition – What is a drug?

A drug is a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works. This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.

The Purpose of the Policy

This policy develops the school's approach to drug education and clarifies appropriate procedures in the management of drug related incidents.

The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for effective drug education and for dealing with drug related incidents within the school environment. The drug education programme reflects the aims and values of our school and its governing body.

The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to provide quality drug education and support any student in need of support to come forward.

RATIONALE

Current national and local research indicates that both legal and illegal drug use is rising amongst young people and as part of the school's care and welfare of the pupils we believe we have a duty to inform and educate them about drug use. We share the responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy informed choices.

The school is committed to the health and safety of all pupils and will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

TO WHOM DOES THE POLICY APPLY?

This policy applies to school pupils, all staff, parents and other visitors.

WHERE DOES THE POLICY APPLY?

This policy applies at all times when staff are acting in loco parentis – this includes educational visits in line with the Schools Educational Visits Policy (see Health and Safety Policy). The policy applies to pupils during break and lunchtimes. It also affects the use of school premises after normal school hours. Organisers of any after-school events should be made aware of the policy and their responsibility to implement it.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Head Teacher

The head takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from outside agencies.

Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors play a role in the implementation of the school's policy for drug education and prevention (as in Drugs: Guidance for Schools 2004). They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of the policy.

All Staff

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them. This includes lunchtime supervisors, caretaker and cleaning staff.

Caretaker

The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any drugs or drug paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the head teacher and dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Parent/Carers

Parents/carers are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme and have access to this policy. They are responsible for ensuring that the guidelines relating to medicines in schools are followed. The school plays its part in ensuring that parents have up to date information regarding drugs. Parents have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in harm to their child – this will be handled with care and consideration. The head teacher will consider if there are any special circumstances which may temper this right.

DRUG EDUCATION

Aim/Objectives

The main aims of our drug education are:

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To equip children with knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make informed moral and social choices.

- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into their body.
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To give children the opportunity to develop their abilities to communicate their concerns and take responsible decisions.
- To enable children to discuss moral questions and share their thoughts in a safe environment.
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs or are aware of other people using them.
- To enable each pupil to develop confidence and self-esteem.
- To provide children with knowledge and information about drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.

All pupils will follow an integrated drug education programme that is responsive to their age, experience and maturity. It will be delivered through the existing curriculum, namely science and P.S.H.E. It will focus on the development of self-esteem and decision making skills. This will involve a wide range of strategies.

We believe that drug education is a whole school issue and as such will be addressed through the curriculum when issues of living a healthy lifestyle arise. Particular reference will be made in science or P.S.H.E., but teachers may also use circle time to address issues that are important.

The school recognises that all pupils are likely to know something about drugs, although this knowledge may be inaccurate, incomplete or based on myth. The school will strive to use pupils' existing knowledge, beliefs, experiences and their views on what should be included in their drug education as a baseline for the development of the programme. Inclusion of this information ensures that the content is credible and relevant and it provides the baseline against which the programme can be evaluated. Existing knowledge can be identified through draw and write activities, circle time, graffiti sheets, questionnaires and through discussion in school or class councils.

The school acknowledges that special consideration must be given to particular groups of young people, including pupils with special educational needs, pupils whose parents/carers or relatives use drugs and pupils vulnerable to drug misuse. The school will ensure an appropriate focus is placed on drug education for these groups and where appropriate will arrange targeted interventions that may involve the use of external agencies to enhance delivery.

Methodology and Resources

Drug education within the school shares the features expected in any other subject area delivered in school; it will be taught in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment and will be delivered using a variety of interactive and participatory teaching methods and a range of opportunities for learning will be provided.

Resources are kept in the staff room.

Class teachers will always maintain responsibility for the overall drug education programme and any external contributors will be used to enhance lessons, not as a substitute teacher. When using external contributors the school will ensure that the sessions are pre-planned and the content agreed. A teacher will be present at all times when external contributors are delivering lessons. Such external contributors may include The Life Education Bus, Kidsafe and the Year 6 Participation in Young Citizens at Barrow Fire Station.

Main themes and learning focus

- What goes onto / into my body
- What is inside my body
- Who needs medicines
- Feeling ill and getting better
- Keeping safe
- Saying no and asking for help
- Talking about feeling
- Growing up in a drug-using world
- All medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- Legal and illegal drugs
- Links between drug use and emotional health and well-being

Staff Support and Training

All staff (teaching and non-teaching) should have a general drug awareness and an understanding of the policy, including management of drug incidents.

Drug education is more effective when taught by teachers with the necessary subject knowledge; the school will strive to provide the necessary training to support this.

Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The elements of drugs education delivered as part of the science curriculum will be assessed in accordance with the national curriculum requirements. The learning from other elements of drug education will be assessed as part of the P.S.H.E. provision.

The provision will be reviewed regularly by the PSHE subject leader.

MANAGING A DRUG-RELATED INCIDENT

This section of the policy provides the framework of procedures for dealing with an incident. The primary concern of the school is the care and welfare of the pupils and as such will seek to balance the safety and security of the school with the needs of the pupils.

The member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the response to drug incidents is the Head Teacher.

RULES

The school rules for the drugs named in this policy are:

Medicine: see school policy on the administration of medicines (Health and Safety Policy)

Tobacco: the school site is a no-smoking area

Alcohol: the possession or consumption of alcohol by pupils is banned.

Solvents: the school will ensure that potentially harmful substances, including aerosols, are stored safely and supervised carefully.

Illegal Substances: no illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on the premises.

Management of Drugs in School

In the event of a drug related incident occurring on school premises, the school will follow the guidelines recommended by the L.A.

To ensure the safety of all young people and staff the school will take possession of any drugs and deal with them in the following manner:

1. Illegal drugs will be confiscated, packaged in a plastic bag, envelope or evidence bag, and all details of the incident recorded and stored with them. The drugs will then be stored in a secure location (school safe) and the police will be contacted to dispose of the substances. THE LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE THE SCHOOL TO DIVULGE THE NAMES OF ANY STUDENTS TO THE POLICE. WHERE THE SCHOOL CHOOSES TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION THE POLICE WILL BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW SET INTERNAL PROCEDURES. This action should be witnessed by at least two members of staff. No one should attempt to identify the substance by tasting them and should not leave the school premises with any substances in their possession. Full details of the incident will be recorded on an incident form.
2. In the case of other drugs (alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and medicines) the school will confiscate the substances, store them securely as above and will contact parents/guardians re the incident. Parents will be invited to school to discuss the incident and any consequences of breaking school rules. At this visit the substances will be returned to the parents.

IN BOTH THESE SITUATIONS THE SCHOOL:

- (a) MAY CHOOSE NOT TO INFORM PARENTS/CARERS IF THE SAFETY OF THE YOUNG PERSON IS JEOPARDISED. AT THIS POINT THE SCHOOL'S CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER MUST BE INVOLVED.
 - (b) WILL NOT SEARCH PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHOUT A YOUNG PERSON'S CONSENT. SCHOOL PROPERTY, E.G. DESKS OR LOCKERS, CAN BE SEARCHED AND THIS ACTION WILL BE WITNESSED. THE PUPIL'S CONSENT WILL BE SOUGHT BUT IS NOT REQUIRED IF THE SCHOOL BELIEVES AN OFFENCE HAS BEEN COMMITTED.
 - (c) HAS DISCUSSED THE DISPOSAL OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA WITH THE CARETAKER AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE KEPT FREE OF ANY SUCH MATERIALS. IN THE CASE OF NEEDLES AND SYRINGES, THEY WILL BE PLACED IN A SECURE CONTAINER, USING GLOVES. THE USE OF BOTTLES OR CANS FOR THE STORAGE OF NEEDLES IS NOT APPROPRIATE. THE SCHOOL WILL THEN CONTACT THE LOCAL POLICE OR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TO DISCUSS DISPOSAL OF THE PARAPHERNALIA.
3. The school will discuss the disposal of drug paraphernalia with the caretaker and every effort will be made to ensure the school grounds are kept free from any such materials. The school will contact the local police or environmental health to discuss disposal of paraphernalia.

WHEN A SCHOOL CHOOSES TO INVOLVE THE POLICE IN A DRUG RELATED INCIDENT THE SCHOOL SHOULD FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES PRODUCED BY CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY.

The school acknowledges that any response taken dealing with drug related issues must balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community. Information regarding young people's need in relation to drug use will come from a variety of sources, not just a response to an incident. All evidence will be examined before proceeding with any action and will take a wide range of responses into consideration.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of all pupils. To reinforce this, any actions taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy. In all cases the pupil and their family will be offered help and support from the school or from partnership agencies.

LIMITS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Pupils disclosing information about their own or others' drug use should be reminded that a teacher cannot offer absolute confidentiality.

DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

As the issue of drug use is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the media, the school will take appropriate advice from the L.A. media team and legal department to ensure any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young person, their families and the school.

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