



Drug Education and Related Incidents

Autumn 2017



St Martin's School



Policy for Drug Education and Related Incidents Autumn 2017

Introduction and Rationale

Whinless Down Academy Trust is committed to investing in our pupil's health and well being and by doing this we assist the process of raising the pupil's achievements. **Our school uses the term ' drug' to include alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.** This school policy provides a clear picture of our approach to drug education and the management of drug-related incidents and support for pupils who have difficulties. It provides a secure framework within which school staff can work. We will ensure a balanced approach and promote healthy lifestyles. This will be delivered within the context of PSHE and the schools equal opportunities policy.

Definitions

'Drugs' and their place in school

We define a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, legal high drugs, and medicines.

Medicines

The School has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Our policy follows Kent County Council Guidelines.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the School Premises except at planned and appropriate celebrations or entertainment after the school day has ended, approved by the Head of school. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the School Premises and return at a later date for the safety and well-being of the whole school.

Tobacco

As a public place the School is a no smoking site at all times. We do not allow vaping on school site as this might promote smoking to pupils. Any item such as lighters, cigarettes, matches or vape machines that are bought in by the pupils will be confiscated (in accordance with the school's behaviour policy) and parents/carers will be informed.

Solvents

All solvents used as part of caretaking duties will be stored securely and only used at times when children are not present. Any solvents bought to school by pupils will be confiscated and parents/carers informed.

Illegal Drugs

No Illegal drugs are allowed to be brought onto, or used on School Premises. If the School is aware of, or suspects any drug related activity inside or outside of school that involves a pupil then the school will alert parents/carers. Parents and visitors under the effects of illegal drugs will be asked to leave the School Premises, and return at a later date, for the wellbeing of the whole school.

AIMS

The overall aims of the drug education programme are to:

- To provide a safe and healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop.
- To ensure all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, the expectations about their behaviour, and the policy regarding drug incidents and concerns about individuals.
- To promote clarity about the management of drug related incidents in the school.
- To encourage and enable pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now and in the future.
- To enable pupils to make reasoned, informed choices.
- To minimise pupils' experimentation with illegal or harm causing substances.
- To address and take account of local community needs, including the differences and diversity within the school community.
- To support and engage parents/carers and pupils in their own personal learning and responsibilities
- To enable pupils, parents and staff to access support structures such as counselling, KCA

The Drugs Education Programme

Drugs education is an entitlement for every pupil. It is delivered in each school year in the manner appropriate to the age and development of children through the PSHE, Science, Circle time and other subject areas when and where appropriate. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community.

Teaching

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between legal and illegal drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to avoid peer group pressures or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils' decision making skills and increase their self esteem.
- To enable pupils' and staff to access support if they have concerns about their own or others' drug use.

Principles of teaching and learning

Through the science and PSHE curriculum pupils are taught;

- To recognise their worth as individuals by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements seeing their mistakes, making amends and setting personal goals.
- To recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly.

- That pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.
- That their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other people's feelings and to try to see things from their points of view.

In teaching drugs education, teachers should use a range of teaching strategies, including role-play, discussion group work, debate, and philosophy and circle time. The use of circle time can be a key strategy for developing life skills. In the circle, the teacher acts as a facilitator, giving information and guiding children. Pupils who are regarded as most at risk can often be helped using this strategy.

The intention is not to teach about the physiological effects of drugs nor to sensationalise drugs, but to provide a clear message that substance abuse and illegal drugs can be dangerous. Life skills development is the key to helping pupils become informed decision makers.

Equal Opportunities

Teaching materials should reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of society, avoiding stereotyping in terms of gender and race. Pupils' progress should be monitored to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged. The school makes every effort to respect and reflect pupils' religious beliefs and take community views into account when teaching drugs education. Parents should be consulted so that they feel welcome to discuss these issues with staff.

Differentiation and Additional Educational Needs

Whilst some pupils may have a fairly broad knowledge and insight into the world of drugs, there are those who have little knowledge at all and teachers need to be sensitive to these issues and ensure that lessons are planned to take account of pupils' age, experience and maturity. The needs of pupils with SEN should be taken into account by the teacher who may need to provide different resources different activities or specific support to some pupils.

Breadth and Balance

The contents and structure of the education programme represents a broad and balanced approach to the teaching of knowledge, skills, understanding attitudes and feelings. A variety of teaching strategies, the use of external visitors, coupled with a wide range of pupil-centre tasks ensures breadth and balance.

Where visitors are used to support and extend classroom teaching, they should be used to complement the schools programme of work for drugs education. In particular a teacher should always be present and retain overall responsibility in the classroom.

Parental Involvement

Many parents have great concerns about drugs and as the first educator of their children most want to develop and extend their child's awareness of the world, so that they are able to make informed decisions. Parents and teachers need to assess when the time is right for children to handle new ideas, concepts and knowledge. Schools should make opportunities to consult parents about drugs education. This may be through parents meetings where issues can be discussed informally and specialist input provided.

Managing drug related incidents

Other than the legitimate use of medicines it is against the school rules for children to bring any other drugs onto the school site. A drug related incident at this school is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine or use of tobacco and alcohol by children. Sometimes it might involve alcohol or drug related incidents with parents.

Procedure for handling a drug related Incident

- All unknown tablets, powders and substance should be regarded as possibly illegal.
- All teachers have a duty of care, and want to protect the child. School staff have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions and confiscate any prohibited items (**DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation (2014)**).
- The substances or drugs should then be handed to the Head of School who is responsible for the ensuing investigation in identifying the substance. The substance or drug should be sealed in a clear plastic bag and locked away until the police are able to collect it for identification.
- If a pupil has taken a drug, or there is reasonable evidence to assume so, a trained first-aider should be called immediately and professional medical help sought.
- Should the substance be illegal the Head of School should contact the Executive Head Teacher and Chair of the LGB.
- KCC press office should be contacted if its look as though the media may become involved.
- Teachers cannot guarantee confidentiality where a pupil discloses information that indicates he/she is at risk, the information needs to be passed immediately to the appropriate person (Head of School, DSL). A teacher should sensitively indicate to a pupil that confidentiality cannot be maintained, preferably prior to any disclosure.

The school believes it is in the best interests of all concerned to inform parents/ carers of any reported drug related incidents. The exception would be where the school believes the child would be at serious risk from the parent / carer. As in all circumstances where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect the Child Protection Procedures will be applied and a referral to Social Services will be made as necessary.

The school will take full account of the circumstances when considering the role and involvement of the police. However if illegal drugs are found on the school premises the police will be informed immediately.

Disposal of Injecting Equipment

Injecting equipment such as needles, syringes, spoons or filters may carry blood borne viruses and need to be handled with extreme caution. If staff find discarded injecting equipment they will follow the following procedure:

- Avoid handling the syringe wherever possible. Where possible sweep up the equipment onto a dustpan or piece of card. If staff have to pick up the syringe avoid the needle and handle by the barrel. Hold it so the needle points away from the body.
- Place any paraphernalia into a sharps container or rigid container to be clearly labelled. Such as a screw top jar or a drinks can.
- If staff should sustain accidental injury from such an implement, seek medical attention immediately and complete an accident report.

Parent/Carer Involvement

We value the important role parents / carers play within our school community and are committed to ensuring parents are informed about the drug education programme via the school prospectus.

Governor Involvement

Our school has a health and well-being group who are responsible for drugs education. All governors are consulted about the drug education provision and policy and are kept up to date at Governor's meetings.

Pastoral Support

The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil welfare seriously. Staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring and sensitive pastoral support for pupils in a number of ways. Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice. Where appropriate, pupils are referred to the school nurse and/or outside helping agencies.

School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures are made.

Monitoring and Reviewing

Drug education is reviewed and evaluated as part of school practice by the staff and the children to ascertain what has been learnt and to establish how future work may become more effective.

POLICY REVIEW OCTOBER 2020