Fourlanesend School Drugs and Alcohol Policy

RATIONALE

Society as a whole is anxious about the effects of substance misuse and yet does not always clarify its understanding of the issues. Different groups in society have different perceptions of the dangers and acceptability of different drug types. In some circles drugs can be seen as glamorous and the subject open to misunderstandings. Drugs education in primary schools can cause alarm and yet is essential if we are to equip our children with the necessary skills, understanding and knowledge to move confidently into adult life.

We have a responsibility to inform our children of the facts relating to the substances they will and do encounter in their environment. In some cases they will have already experienced the effect of drugs in the adults around them. It is important that we are sensitive to the experiences that children may have.

We will not tolerate the misuse of drugs within the schools and its grounds. This includes adults who come on to the school premises. Our school is a no-smoking area and we request all adults to refrain from smoking around the premises.

We recognise that some of our children and parents need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these. Further information can be found in our health and safety policy.

This drugs policy is part of our overall approach to health and well-being. Through our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and through circle time and school ethos we aim to ensure that children recognise the importance of what they choose to eat and drink and the effect which this can have. Self-respect and a healthy lifestyle is part of an approach which will enable our children to make the right choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

Definition of 'drugs' for the benefit of this policy

The term refers to:

All illegal drugs
All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances
Substances giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled
All over the counter and prescription medicines

AIMS

This policy applies to all pupils, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members attending the school or whilst on school business, including off-site visits and trips. Fourlanesend School aims to:

- provide the information and support for children to be able to make informed choices

- encourage a supportive ethos in which issues can be discussed and questions answered
- ensure the safety of staff and pupils when on the school and during educational visits
- provide appropriate role models and develop an understanding of the importance of positive choices in forging healthy lifestyles
- take a firm stance against the use of illegal substances
- recognise the valuable role that medication can play
- acknowledge that not everyone makes healthy choices and some of the reasons why they do not
- enable children to develop an awareness of self and understand that the choices they make may have consequences that effect others as well as themselves
- provide a whole school approach to issues of healthy living
- provide children and adults with additional help and support where necessary
- ensure that children have access to unbiased information to help them establish the difference between fact, opinion and belief

Drug education in primary schools

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

At Key Stage 2 pupils learn about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs and basic skills to manage risky situations. They learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take more responsibility for their actions.

Science

Key Stage 1 to know about the role of medicines

Key Stage 2 to know about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health

PSHE and Citizenship

Key Stage 1 that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly

Key Stage 2 which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks

The approach at our school

There are a number of ways in which we aim to help children understand the implication of drug use and misuse. We recognise that drugs impinge on many of our children's lives in a variety of ways and the subject needs careful handling. We are also aware of the impact of national initiatives and publicity campaigns. We aim to involve different deliverers in providing different perspectives on the issue and to provide opportunity for children to ask questions and share their existing knowledge. There may be many misconceptions which will need to be addressed in a sensitive and factual way. Where teachers are unsure it is acceptable to refrain from answering the question until further clarification can be sought. The methods we use include:

Circle time

PHSE and Citizenship

School Nurse

Using non-fiction

Science

Drama

In the event of disclosure

There may be times during discussions about drugs when children make disclosures. Where this is the case the teacher sensitively listens to what the child has to say whilst also avoiding further disclosure in front of the class. At the end of the lesson it might be appropriate to spend some time with the child providing them with the opportunity to speak but following the child protection policy, not asking questions or writing down at this stage. Confidentiality cannot be promised.

As soon as is reasonable, the member of staff should pass on their own concerns to the designated safeguarging person, Mrs Norton, who will follow the agreed procedure for disclosure handling. The class teacher should always ensure they remain calm and should not appear shocked by what children might have to say.

It is important that children understand the ground rules during any discussion and that they do not put pressure upon one another to reveal personal information.

Drug use on the premises

Our school makes it clear that drug use on the premises is not acceptable except in the case of prescribed medication.

This includes:

* Smoking on or around the school premises during the school day
* Alcohol on the school site during the school day
* Alcohol consummation on the school site during the school day
* Adults or children on the school premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement
* Adults or children in possession of alcohol or illegal substances on the school premises

Where school staff suspect that there is transgression of these guidelines senior management should be informed immediately at which point a judgement will be made as to whether they should : approach the individual, call the police or make arrangements to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of children on the school site.

At all times the safety of the children remains the key factor in any decision made whilst staff should also be alert to the danger they may bring on themselves by certain courses of action. Any repeat of transgressions might be referred to the LEA in order for legal action to be taken.

If there is concern that parents collecting a child may potentially place that child at risk the school can, in extreme circumstances, refuse to hand over the pupil. The appropriate services would then be notified immediately.

Drug use by pupils

It is very rare for primary school pupils to be identified as taking non-medicinal drugs. However, on occasions it might come to the attention of staff that children have been smoking or drinking or taking drugs or be in the company, on occasions of adolescents who are. Each case should be taken individually and the appropriate course of action decided by a senior member of staff. Alternatives include:

Use of the school behaviour policy
Referral to parents Referral to the police
Referral to social services
Referral to another external agency
Counselling and support for individuals

A combination of the above may be used. Decisions will be based upon the immediate and long-term safety of the child involved and the nature and time of the incidents. Parental involvement in any discussion is crucial except where the incident is one considered to relate to child protection. In this case the chid protection policy should be followed and an immediate referral made.

Drugs found on school premises

Needles / sharps

These will be removed by an identified member of staff using appropriate gloves and placed in a 'sharps box'.

Alcohol and tobacco

Parents/ carers will normally be informed and given the opportunity to collect the alcohol or tobacco

Illegal substances

Temporary possession of these should be taken in the presence of another adult. The substance should be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the time and date when found. The police should then be notified. They should then be kept in the locked cabinet in the school office until it can be collected.

Special Needs

All children should have access to the information covered in our drugs education programme. Arrangement should be made within classrooms to enable this to happen either through additional TA support or the adaptation of curriculum materials. In most cases the largely discursive nature of the subject will mean that all children have equal access.

It should be noted that some children will need to use medication regularly as part of their own special needs. This might be for either physical or emotional reasons. Care should be taken at all times to draw a distinction between different types of drugs use and enable children to see the value that drugs can have in our society to large groups of people. There might be opportunity for an individual with first-hand experience of taking medication for particular ailments to share their experiences and discuss some of the side effects and benefits that such reliance can have. Any such involvement should be discussed with the child concerned and their parents.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited to inspect the school drug policy and representatives support the Governing Body in making decisions about drugs education practice.

Where parents do have concerns about the drug education content, they are invited into school to share these concerns and to see any materials that are being used.

Monitoring and Assessment

The elements of drug education that form part of the science curriculum will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Fourlanesend Values:

- Respect and Responsibility
- Enthusiasm for Learning
- Confidence
- Honesty
- Kindness

These are integrated and embedded throughout this policy and the curriculum.

Dated: September 2018