

Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy Oaklands Primary School

At Oaklands Primary School we aim to equip our children and staff with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and to equip them with the social skills to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. We are committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all the members of our school community.

We recognise that though drugs may not always be harmful, all carry the potential for harm. Safety and effective management therefore underpin both the school's drug education and its response to any incidents. Medicines will be treated with the same priority, care and respect as non-medicinal drugs.

The Aims of this Policy

The school drug policy aims:

- to safeguard the health and well-being of all pupils at all times;
- to consider all drugs, legal, medicinal and illegal and to respond constructively to the issues raised by their availability and use in society;
- to provide clear guidance to staff about procedures for managing drug-related incidents.

School Drug Co-ordinator & PHSE coordinator

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse.

- to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills;
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse; • to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use;
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. smoking and alcohol abuse;
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face;
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum, the availability to pupils of suitable educational resources and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. We deliver in the taught curriculum mainly through, R.E., PSHE, Science and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school will actively co-operate with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LEA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. The school is a non-smoking environment with a policy regarding smoking.

Drug Education

In order to be able to make skilled and informed decisions, all pupils and staff need to understand the social and legal status of drugs, (including medicines, legitimate and illegitimate uses, beneficial and harmful effects.) It is our aim to help all our pupils to be able to live safely and responsibly in a society where many kinds of drugs may be available.

All pupils have an entitlement to drug education through the provision of the Science curriculum and through PHSE and Citizenship. Our purpose is to give our pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions both now and in their future lives.

There is an emphasis on building and maintaining self-esteem, and upon the unique value of each individual pupil. We also aim to develop the confidence, the skills and the sense of personal responsibility of each pupil to manage their own behaviour. We move progressively from a greater emphasis on protecting pupils' safety at the bottom of the school, to fostering their own responsible behaviour by the time they leave us.

Within the context of PHSE provision, our drug education plans to provide opportunities for the pupils to:

- take responsibility;
- feel positive about themselves;
- participate;
- make real choices and decisions;
- meet and talk with people;
- develop relationships;
- consider some simple social and moral dilemmas arising from different aspects of life;

- ask for help;
- find information and advice within KS2;
- prepare for change.

Within the context of the requirements of the national science curriculum 2014 provision:

- The Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum supports children in developing an understanding of what keeps them healthy and safe. Drug education at Key Stage 1 will build on this.
- pupils at Key Stage 1 learn about being safe with medicines and household substances, the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules;
- pupils at Key Stage 2 learn about the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health.

As pupils get older we plan more specific content in the light of assessment of the pupils by enquiring and consulting with them to determine their current knowledge, experiences, concerns and questions.

As pupils become ready, we also help them explore the difference between taking risks and courting danger, and between courage and recklessness, exploring different attitudes in the class and in society to 'risk'. Pupils are also helped to understand clearly that particular decisions about behaviour may lead inevitably to certain consequences. A range of situations, and the pupils' own experiences, are gathered to help illustrate this.

The training needs of the staff delivering the programme are addressed by the School Drug Co-ordinator and Senior Leadership Team.

Inclusion

The statutory requirements and guidance on inclusion are used and applied when planning and delivering teaching and learning activities. For example, some pupils with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviour are acceptable and to develop their confidence and acquire skills to make the right choices.

Teachers and the Inclusion Team will take account of potential barriers to learning that arise from pupil's personal circumstances, for example where pupils have drug or alcohol misusing parents. We recognise that sometimes some pupils' needs cannot entirely be met in school and we aim to support the welfare of such pupils by accessing specialist sources of help.

Specialist help may include support from:

- Family Intervention Service
- Local Charities
- PFSA
- drug and alcohol services.

Use of outside speakers and visitors

We are supported in our drug education work by members of the Somerset Health Promotion Team, the Police and school nurse. Contributors are always informed of what has gone before and what is expected of them, and their role and contribution carefully negotiated to ensure it meets the needs of the pupils. A member of staff is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Aims of Drug Education

Our aims are:

- to help pupils develop, extend and practise the skills they need to cope responsibly in a society where there are drugs;
- to provide access to reliable, up to date, objective and balanced information about drugs, including medicines and legal drugs, as pupils need it;
- to emphasise the school's focus upon personal safety and personal health;
- to explore issues relevant to pupils, which are raised by the uses of drugs in society, as appropriate to their age and experience;
- to contribute to raising and maintaining high self-esteem in all pupils;
- to foster competence and confidence in pupils' critical thinking and decision making skills as they move through their schooling;
- to identify sources of further information and reliable support;
- by the end of Year 6, to ensure that the major relevant content specified in the school's drug education programme learning outcome for Key Stage 2 have been covered, and to assess the level of pupils' knowledge in relation to this.

Procedures regarding unauthorised substances on school premises

Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drugs at any time. Any found will be confiscated, and only legal drugs returned to parents, who will normally be informed as a matter of course.

If any pupil is under the influence of a drug or otherwise thought to be in need of medical help, it will be sought at once. The Head will be informed. First Aiders will be summoned if necessary.

If any pupil is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated and either destroyed or stored in a secure place under the Head's supervision. The Head will take the lead in deciding how to respond further. This may include Police involvement. Parents and the school governors will be informed. Careful investigation will be undertaken and records made and kept by the Head. Rumours or suspicions will also be fully and promptly investigated. A professionals meeting will be called if necessary and appropriate action taken. The range of sanctions applied for rule-breaking will be similar to those for other infringements, and will depend on careful assessment of the circumstances of the event(s), the needs of the pupil(s).

Special Guidance for School Visits

Visits in the UK - if a substance is discovered on a visit away from the school the teacher should contact the Headteacher without delay. The Head will contact the police local to the discovery, to gain information and guidance.

Procedures regarding medicines on school premises

Please read our Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs policy

Please read our Safeguarding Policy including County Lines and Child Exploitation.

The school Drug Coordinator is:-

Miss K Parr

The office hold a list of first aid qualified staff

Date: _____ **21.09.2020** _____

Date of Review: _____ **Autumn 2023**

Signed: _____ *kparr* _____ **(Headteacher)**