



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

School Mission Statement

All children are entitled to quality education, and at this school we aim to set standards of excellence in the quality of teaching and learning experiences that we offer to our children.

The children will always be at the heart of the educational process, and we celebrate success in all areas of achievement. Children will be encouraged to develop enquiring minds, initiative, confidence in themselves and respect for each other laying down a Christian foundation and preparing them for life in a multi-cultural society.

Definition

A drug is defined as, "a substance that people take to change the way they feel, think or behave" (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). This policy will encompass all drugs:

- a) Alcohol
- b) Tobacco
- c) Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- d) Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicine
- e) Prescribed medicines
- f) Volatile substances e.g. aerosols, butane, petrol
- g) Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, L.S.D., ecstasy, heroin

Guidelines

The policy is based on the DCSF guidelines which state that schools play an important role ... "in tackling drug misuse in England, by providing drug education and pastoral support to all pupils and identifying those vulnerable to drug misuse so that pupils who need extra help either receive it in school or through referral to other services."

Our Aims and Objectives

- 1) To increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about:
 - a) The short and long term risks of drugs
 - b) The rules and laws relating to drugs
 - c) The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - d) The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
 - e) The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

- 2) To develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy including:
 - a) Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - b) Communicating effectively
 - c) Resisting pressures
 - d) Finding information, help and advice
 - e) Devising problem solving and coping strategies
 - f) Developing self awareness and self esteem

- 3) To enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitude towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and other influences.

Organisation

The co-ordination and long term planning will be done by the Science Co-coordinator in consultation with the rest of the staff. Drug Education will take place as part of the science curriculum, P.H.S.E. and when necessary as a discrete activity. Drug Education will be taught by class teachers in a variety of methods such as whole class work, groups, circle time and role-play.

Other Agencies

We will make use of the School Nurse and the 'Health Education Bus' to aid the delivery of this programme. These and any other agencies will be aware of and reinforcing our Drugs Education Policy.

Staff Training

All school staff will be made aware of the opportunities for training. The Science Co-coordinator has attended the two days 'Drugs, Young People and the Community' course.

Monitoring

Monitoring will be undertaken by the Head Teacher and Science Co-coordinator, initially through feedback from the staff at the end of each topic.

Recommended by the Curriculum and Standards Committee July 2009

Accepted by the Governing Body

Date for Review Summer 2010.

July 2009