

Drugs Education Policy 2023



Organisation

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the regular circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between helpful and harmful drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum.

Management of Drug-related Incidents

The Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents. Support for dealing with incidents will be sought from outside agencies as appropriate.

Procedures

It is the policy of the federation, that no child should bring any drug, legal or illegal, to school. If a child will need medication during the school day the parent or carer should notify the school and ask permission for the medication to be brought in. This should be taken directly to the designated members of staff for safekeeping. Any medication needed by a child while in school must be taken under the supervision of an adult and must be prescribed by a doctor and labelled by the chemist.

If a child is found to have deliberately brought illegal substances into school and is found to be distributing these to other pupils, the child will be permanently excluded from the school. The police and social services will also be informed. Anyone who is found to have brought any type of illegal substance onto the school premises will be asked to leave and the appropriate authorities informed.

If any child is found to be suffering from the effects of alcohol or other substances, arrangements will be made for that child to be taken home and a referral will be made to Social Services. It is forbidden for adults to bring illegal drugs onto the school premises.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are to:

- provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by governors and staff.

The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the LA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle. The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this policy, and that it is implemented effectively. It is also their role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training.

The Role of Parents

The Federation is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents, however we believe our role is to:

- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school

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