



Drug Education Policy

Shirland Primary School

November 2022

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At Shirland Primary School, we aim to provide our pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. This awareness includes understanding the dangers posed by drug use. Through drug education, our pupils can make informed decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Intent

The objectives of our drug education programme are:

- to provide our pupils with knowledge and information about legal and illegal substances (drugs) and the harmful effects they can have on peoples' lives;
- to enable our pupils to discuss moral questions related to drug taking and so provide a safe (and effective/supportive) environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help our pupils to respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will become involved in drug misuse;
- to encourage our pupils to develop self-confidence so that they are able to make sensible and informed choices about their lives;
- to ensure that pupils are taught about drugs in a consistent manner following guidelines that have been agreed by the DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Policy Officers);
- to provide accurate and up-to-date information which is age-relevant.

Implementation

At Shirland Primary School, we regard drug education as a whole-school issue, and believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. We recognise that, as drug and alcohol patterns and trends change, it is important the school staff (including midday supervisors, teaching and learning assistants, new members of staff, teachers, governors and parents) have the opportunity to attend a range of training,

Drug education is delivered in a clear, concise and consistent manner in line with National and Local Guidelines and includes the statutory minimum that all schools should deliver.

We teach drug education as part of our PSHE Matters scheme which is taught from Early Years through to Year 6. Drug education is a stand-alone topic taught every other year.

Early Years

Our Drug Education programme initially covers medicines; who keeps us safe and who looks after us. As part of the Early Years curriculum area 'physical development', children recognise the importance of keeping healthy and factors that contribute to this. Children are taught to respect themselves and others.

Key Stage 1

5-7-year olds are taught about: -

- identifying different ways to keep healthy
- demonstrating simple hygiene routines that can stop germs from spreading
- understanding how medicines can help people to stay healthy
- naming different feelings
- talking about rules and age restrictions that keep us safe
- understanding that household products (including medicines) can be harmful if not used correctly
- talking about the people whose job it is to help keep us safe
- understanding that things that people put into their body or on their skin can affect how people feel

Lower Key Stage 2

7-9-year olds are taught about: -

- recognising that habits can have both positive and negative effects on a healthy lifestyle
- understanding how medicines, when used responsibly, contribute to health
- identifying how to predict, assess and manage risk
- understanding what hazards may cause harm or risk and what they can do to reduce risks/keep safe
- understanding the importance of taking medicines correctly and using household products safely
- identifying strategies for keeping safe
- how to respond and react in an emergency situation
- learning about the risks and effects of legal drugs common to everyday life

Upper Key Stage 2

9-11-year olds are taught about: -

- recognising that habits can have both positive and negative effects on a healthy lifestyle
- how to respond and react in an emergency situation

- exploring the risks/effects of legal drugs common to everyday life
- recognising that there are laws surrounding the use of legal drugs
- exploring why people chose to use or not use drugs
- recognising the mixed messages in the media
- identifying the people they can talk to if they have concerns
- identifying strategies to manage peer influence and the desire for peer approval

Vulnerable Students

Some students are more vulnerable to drug use and other social problems. We aim to identify any such children and provide access to early intervention through the curriculum, our learning mentor or through referral to other services.

Parents

We wish to build a positive relationship with the parents of our pupils and this can only be achieved through mutual trust and cooperation.

In addition, we will:

- invite parents to view the materials and resources used to teach drug education;
- answer parental questions about drug education and, where necessary, signpost a parent to the relevant support agencies;
- inform parents about best practice with regard to current drug education so that they may support the key teaching points being given to pupils in our school.

Confidentiality

Please see the 'Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy', the 'Data Protection Act 2018' and 'Confidentiality and Handling Sensitive Issues Policy' for more information.

Medicines

The storage and administration of medicines is details in our 'Administration of Medicines' policy which should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Procedures Regarding Illegal Substances

It is important that staff behave in a corporate manner, sharing concerns rather than acting independently. Any response should be to the pupil rather than the substance misuse itself. Teachers have a wide range of observational skills used in monitoring pupils' behaviour and academic progress. When these skills are used in cases of pupils misusing substances, a supportive pastoral network will enable appropriate responses to be made. Always, if a problem occurs, the Headteacher should be informed. The emotive issues surrounding drug use often attracts national and local interest. It is the Headteacher's responsibility to liaise with the media and seek advice from the LA Public Relation Department should an incident occur. All staff need to note that:

- it is an offense, under the 'Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, to take in one's possession illegal substances, even with the intent of preventing a pupil from continuing to commit an offense in connection with that drug, unless the member of staff takes all reasonable steps as soon as possible
- it is also an offense to fail to cooperate with any police investigation as such failure to cooperate may amount to obstruction
- it would be an offense for staff to knowingly allow or condone the use of illegal drugs on school premises.

Dealing with Suspicion of Drug Use

When a member of staff has a concern for a pupil's behaviour, a specific non-judgemental factual record should be made giving an overview of the pupil's behaviour.

If, subsequently, a suspicion is confirmed but there is no supportive evidence, the named member of staff (i.e. the Headteacher) should make available advice and support for the pupil in conjunction with the parent. There is no legal requirement for the school to contact the police, however, it may be helpful to make the informal contact with the named officer for further advice and support. The Headteacher may access support and advice from the Drug Education Consultant located in Derbyshire County Councils' Education Improvement Service, please contact 07919112368 or alison.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk.

In applying these procedures, the school will take into account the age of the pupil and any relevant information regarding family background.

Discovery of Substances

If substances are discovered on school premises or elsewhere within the school's jurisdiction (e.g. on a school visit) the teacher should adopt the following procedure: -

- if possible, remove the substance in the presence of a witness. If this is not possible, the substance should be removed from the location where it is discovered;
- if the substance is in the possession of one of more pupils, the teacher should attempt to remove it if it is reasonably possible. Professional discretion should be exercised in such instances. If it is not possible to remove the substance, then a member of SLT should be called immediately;
- pupils should only be searched by staff if absolutely necessary. They must not be searched without their consent as such a search may amount to assault. At most, a search should only consist of outer clothing (i.e. coat, gloves, personal belongings, footwear etc). Another member of staff must be present whilst the search is carried out. If a pupil refuses to be searched, the police should be called in to deal with the situation. The school should decide at which stage the parents should be informed depending on the particular circumstances.
- Having removed the substance, the school should keep a record of the place, date and time the substance was removed. This will be recorded on CPOMS.
- **The substances should be taken to the Headteacher, or deputy in their absence, preferably in a sealed container. The seal should be signed and dated. The teacher must not retain the substance. To do so may place that teacher at risk.**
- The Headteacher **must** contact the local Drugs Intelligence Office (or local police on 101) who will arrange for the substance to be collected. Until that time, the Headteacher is responsible for the safekeeping of the substance.
- If a pupil is directly involved when the substance is found, it is the Headteacher's responsibility to consult with the policy, notify the parents concerned and agree further appropriate action inline with the school's behaviour policy. If approached by the media, advice should be sought from the LA press office.
- If any equipment associated with substance misuse is found, it should be handled with extreme care, particularly where equipment involves syringes, for risk of infection. Equipment should be stored in a secure, rigid container until the police have removed it safely.

Dealing with Persons Under the Influence of Legal and Illegal Substances

If ever there is an occasion when a pupil is found to be under the influence of legal or illegal substances, rapid response may be called for- including alerting staff with basic first-aid experience.

Children Affected by Someone Else's Drug or Alcohol Use

If a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school premises, the school may ask them to leave. This should be witnessed with all discussions leading to this action, as well as the decision made, thoroughly recorded on CPOMS.

The school can contact the police if the situation becomes difficult to manage. Where a parent or carer becomes abusive or places their child at risk, safeguarding procedures should be followed and/or the involvement of the police.

The impact of parental drug or alcohol use upon a child can be wide-ranging. If the child is at risk, the school must follow the safeguarding procedures. Not all children of drug or alcohol users will fall into this category and schools can refer children and young people affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use to Space 4 U- Action for Children, who can support children and young people aged 5-18 who are seriously affected by someone else's substance misuse. This could be a parent, sibling or close friend. Telephone: 01246 277422.

Special Guidance for School Visits

Visits in the UK

If the substance is discovered on a visit away from school, the teacher should contact the Headteacher (or Deputy if the Headteacher is not available) without delay. The Headteacher (or Deputy) will then contact police local to the discovery.

Notification of Governors

The Headteacher will notify the Chair of Governors with regard to any substance-related incident in advance of information being generally known. If individual governors enquire about such an incident, the Headteacher's reply will be short and factual, having regard for confidentiality. This will be followed by a confidential report of the incident for the Chair, who then has to decide how such information should be disseminated to members of the governing body.

Further Information

www.talktofrank.com

Wider drug information with videos.

www.drugscope.org.uk

Useful e-bulletin.

www.drinkaware.co.uk

Information on alcohol and factsheets.

www.mentor-adepis.org

Support on delivering drug education, factsheets on different drugs, guidance and evidence of good practise.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/talking-drugs-alcohol/

www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-drugs-and-alcohol/