



POLICY STATEMENT ON THE TEACHING OF DRUG EDUCATION

Introduction

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

We want our pupils to have the knowledge and confidence to reject drugs not because they have been told 'no', but because they possess the necessary skills to resist peer pressure and have confidence in their own decisions. We believe that staff and parents share the responsibility for helping children understand the difficult issues within drug education.

This policy forms an integral part of our existing PSHE provision, and the drug education programme complements this.

Aims

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. (DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools, DfES, Sept 2012)

Garden Fields School believes its pupils need accurate information on which to base their decisions about drug issues. Our essential aim is to provide pupils with facts about drugs and their misuse, whilst emphasising the benefits of adopting a healthy lifestyle. We will give our pupils the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding required to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

Curriculum content

Drug Education may arise spontaneously in school when children ask questions or when they are exposed to media coverage of drug related issues. Any questions from children will be answered sensitively taking into account the age, cultural, social or religious background of the child concerned.

EYFS – (4-5 years) taught through Personal Social and Emotional Development and Knowledge and Understanding.

National Curriculum requirements for each stage include:

KS1 – [5-7 years) 'about the role of drugs as medicines'

KS2 – [7-11 years] 'that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects'.

Through direct teaching, children's knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs, (in line with the National Curriculum for Science) is developed. Children are taught specifically about the role of medicines and that drugs (as medicines) can be dangerous if appropriate precautions are not followed. They discuss the role of doctors and pharmacists as responsible adults who are trained in the use and administration of medicines. Children are taught to never put unfamiliar objects or

liquids in their mouth, not to play with household chemicals (such as bleach), which are harmful, and not to accept unknown items or medicines from untrained or strange people. Discussions are held in which the children are encouraged to consult trusted adults (e.g. their parents) if they are unsure of what they have come across. The children are also taught never to explore or experiment with unknown substances.

In addition to this the children discuss the role of 'health and safety' labels and symbols on bottles and containers as warnings of danger. Particular care and sensitivity is taken in the infant years in matching discussions to the maturity of the children involved, which may not always be adequately indicated by their chronological age.

In Key Stage 2, teachers and parents should provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse. Discussions and teaching is centred on equipping pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs. Information relating to drug education is delivered in a clear and honest manner; a manner that informs without promoting experimentation. Children at the end of Key Stage 2 are encouraged to participate in discussions, which are backed up with adequate supervised teaching and intervention.

Issues covered in the whole school programme of drug education are:

- The definition of a drug. The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:
'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.'
- Types of 'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches and prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- The differences between drugs and medicines (i.e. all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines)
- Legal drugs and addiction (i.e. tobacco, alcohol and caffeine), volatile (sniffable) substances, e.g. aerosols, glues, petrol.
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy.
- The law and drugs.

THE ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The Head Teacher is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. The role includes:

- Implementing procedures for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance found in school
- Liaison with the appropriate authorities on any drug related incident
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- The induction of new staff as appropriate
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents
- Reviewing and updating the school drug policy, when required