



St Ann's Heath Junior School

Drugs Education Policy

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of the school and its community to share this commitment.

Aims and objectives

We aim to equip children with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education teaching are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about legal and illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to provide children with information and knowledge about widely available socially used drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and the effects they have on people's feelings, thoughts, behaviour and lives;
- to 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;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives, and in relation to pressure from others;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking any form of drug, especially illegal drugs, is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Other related policies and documents include:

- PSHE policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Definition of terms

Drug:

This policy uses the definition that a drug is any substance which people use to change the way they feel, think or behave'. The term 'Drugs' includes all illegal drugs, all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled, and all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Drug use:

All drug use, including medicinal use, carries the potential for harm.

Drug misuse:

Drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.

Drug abuse:

Drug taking which harms health or functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

Organisation

Drug education is provided within a broader framework of PSHE throughout our school, where wider issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility can be addressed. Our PSHE curriculum follows advice provided by Surrey Healthy Schools.

Our school acknowledges that a positive, health promoting ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in doing so, helps to build self esteem that may help pupils to cope more effectively in drug related situations.

In 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, both legal and illegal. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In PSHE lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs, and the use of certain drugs socially in moderation.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 5, where the children are taught about legal and illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them.

The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, which types of drugs they may choose, the progression that drug abuse can take, 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The PHSE subject lead will monitor delivery of the programme through observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision. This will be fed back to the relevant Governor's Committee as part of a regular report on PSHE in addition to comments from children about what they have learnt in their drug education.

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness will be conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Staff meetings to review and share experiences
- Assessment of pupil learning outcomes

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher will liaise with external agencies, such as the LEA and Surrey Healthy Schools, regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The role of teachers

Staff responsible for teaching about drugs follow the PSHE curriculum. This includes a variety of learning and teaching methods e.g role play, discussion, drama, creative writing and circle time.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all during the teaching of drug education.

The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- 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;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Monitoring and review

The relevant committee of the governing body will monitor the effectiveness of the drugs education policy on an annual basis. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification.

Responding to drug related incidents

Our school acknowledges pastoral responsibility in this area and seeks to work closely with families and support agencies.

Our school will consider each drug incident individually and recognises a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action we take in regards to a drug related incident.

Policy Status	
Agreed by staff representative	March 2017
Agreed by Governors	March 2017
Next Review Date (or earlier due to statutory PSHE curriculum)	March 2020