

Drugs Education Policy

Introduction

Drug education is a major component in preventing drug, alcohol, tobacco and other substance misuse, and in promoting the health and wellbeing of all children and young people. Drug education aims to minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use; to delay the onset of first use; to reduce the harm caused by drugs; and to enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help and know how to do so (See Appendix)

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs:

- all *illegal* drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971);
- all *legal* drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Definition

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions.

Courtland Primary School Statement

Courtland Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety. Our school operates a smoke free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously as part of our Healthy School programme.

Responsibilities

The Head teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents have access to this drugs policy on the website;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The governing body will:

- support the Head teacher in following the policy;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, when necessary, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the Headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information and clear up misunderstandings;
- explore attitudes and values and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;

Drugs education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling. Topics including alcohol and smoking will be covered in KS2.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to 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. Year 6 will also be taught about the dangers of drugs from Police visits and also by taking part in the Barnet Junior Citizen scheme.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course we follow the DFE and LA guidelines. The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or by the LA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs at school

Pupils may bring current (dated) prescribed medication into school with a Courtland School signed consent form from their parent/carer. Both parent/carer and the welfare officer must sign this agreement. Medication must be in the original packaging with the child's name clearly labelled. Trained welfare staff may administer prescribed medication to children with parental consent. The medication will be kept in a locked unit with the key being held in a secure location. If parents prefer, they may visit the school to bring and administer prescribed medication themselves, by prior arrangement. Over the counter medication can only be given by the parent/carer.

Where children have medical needs/health care plans, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept in the Welfare room of all medication received and given. Liquid medication is stored in a locked refrigerator in the medical room. Emergency medication is stored in the Welfare Room e.g. for epipens or asthma inhalers (easily assessable to pupils); other drugs are stored securely in the Welfare room. Only a trained First Aider or appointed person can administer the medication. Controlled drugs are stored in a locked safe and can only be administered by a named person. A log of controlled medication is kept by the welfare officer in a secure location and is always witness by another member of staff.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Any staff requiring medication during the working hours should ensure that their medication is safely and securely stored, such that pupils have no access to it. Staff must not under any circumstances give their medication to a pupil or each other.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school premises.

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act, 1983. Occasionally, members of staff may consume limited amounts of alcoholic drinks in the staff room.

Educational visits

The school's drug education policy applies during school visits.

During educational visits:

- Staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits, which will include the issue of consumption of alcohol and smoking by staff
- Adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place
- A nominated first aider will be responsible for the safe storage of any pupils' medicines and supervision their administration
- Pupils will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

Drugs incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays etc.

The Headteacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

A full record will be made of any incident.

The Headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

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 our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs policy;
- 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 about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- 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.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

Monitoring and reviewing

The curriculum committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy on a regular basis. If the policy appears to need modification, then the committee will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded. Governors require the Headteacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drugs education programme taught in this school.

Communication/dissemination of the Policy

The policy will be disseminated in the following ways:

- School Web Site / MLE
- Staff Meeting

Drugs Policy

Date set up: November 1997 (L Walker & R Pini)

Reviewed: March 2015 (D Tunkel)

Reviewed: April 2018 (D Tunkel)

Date of next review: March 2021

APPENDIX

Support Agencies

National

- **Talk To Frank** - 0800 776600
www.talktofrank.com
- **Drinkline** – 0800 9178282
www.alcoholconcern.org.uk,
- **ADFAM** – 020 7 928 8898
Waterbridge House, 32-36 Loman Street, London. SE1 0EH.
The national organisation for the families and friends of drug users
www.adfam.org.uk
- **Drugscope** – 020 7928 1211
Waterbridge House, 32 - 36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.
DrugScope is a UK charity that conducts research in the drugs field and provides drugs information to professionals and the public.
www.drugscope.org.uk
- **Release – 0207 729 5255**
388 Old Street, London, EC1V 9LT
Also, Drugs in Schools Helpline by RELEASE - 0345 366666
www.release.org.uk
- **RE-SOLV** – 0808 800 2345
30a High Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8AW
The Society for the Prevention of Solvent Abuse
www.re-solv.org/
- **Childline** – 0800 1111.
Studd Street, London. N1 0QW
www.childline.org.uk