



DRUGS & DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS POLICY

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Introduction

School Ethos

Our ethos is one of high expectations and mutual respect where each pupil knows they are valued and well cared for. We believe every child is an individual who can grow and excel; inclusion and equality are at the heart of all we do. The Policy for Drugs and Drug-Related Incidents is written in accordance with this philosophy.

The DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools, September 2012
The Drug Safety Strategy 2010

The Aims of this Policy

- To support the school's intention to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils.
- To support all member of the school community by providing clear guidance.
- To give appropriate attention to all drugs: legal drugs, medicines, solvents and other socially disapproved of drugs and illegal drugs.

- To bring clarity and consistency to the way all staff approach the subject of drugs.
- To bring about confident, effective management of all drugs on school premises.
- To set down the basis for a planned drug education programme in accordance with LEA and national guidance.

Flowery Field School's Position on Drugs

This policy is intended to ensure all pupils are supported consistently, At School we recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but we also regard every drug as representing potential for harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils' need to understand the nature of drugs they may come into contact with, their social and legal status and their uses and effects. These choices will include decisions about the use of medicines as well as non-medicinal drugs. It is our aim to help all our pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. The main emphasis of our work in relation to drugs is the safety of our pupils.

Designated Lead

The designated lead for responsibility for the drug policy and all drug issues within the school is Mr. Fell, Head Teacher.

Drug Education

We use drug educations to bring about an understanding of the drugs with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. Through drug education we aim to build their self-esteem, their skills and their belief in the significance of their own role in preserving their health and welfare. In addition to building our pupil's competence, we also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make careful decisions.

At School, drug education is a planned and integral element of the PSHCE curriculum and is an entitlement of every pupil. Staff teaching drug education are offered training and support in awareness of drugs and in the techniques of drug education. Teaching resources are chosen for their appropriate content and quality.

We recognise that pupils need accurate, up to date, credible drug information to enable them to:

- Understand what drugs are, their uses and their effects.
- Be able to discriminate between categories of drugs and identify both the differences and the similarities between them.

We recognise that all pupils need to:

- Acquire and practise appropriate skills.
- Consider, explore (and sometimes re-consider) the attitudes and values they hold as well as those held by others.
- Consider the social, health and legal issues raised by drug use.
- Have the confidence and support to be able to cope with situation where drugs are on offer.
- Develop sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to preserve their own safety.
- Know the boundaries set by parents, carers, school and the Law.
- Know where and how they can get help.

We try to assess the needs of the pupils by enquiring about their current knowledge, experiences, concerns and questions. We use information from such enquiries to help us determine starting points and prioritise the content of drug education.

We deal with the subject of drugs through a planned scheme of work and also in response to opportunities as they arise in the classroom. We revisit issues as the pupils' awareness, readiness and experience grow with time, to build on previous learning.

We ensure that the children know the school rules regarding drugs and medicines. This links with other policies e.g. discipline. As the children progress through the school, they are made aware of the relevant laws and controls that society places on the supply and use of some drugs.

The Drug Education Programme

The content of drug education at Linden Road School will include the requirements of the National Curriculum Science Order. The following guidelines are from the National Curriculum Science Order:

- At Key Stage 1 pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

The non-statutory frameworks for PSHCE and Citizenship at Key Stages 1 and 2 are also referred to.

In addition, many National Curriculum subjects can make a contribution to drug education by using drugs as the topic for specific elements from the programmes of study. Some examples of opportunities for drug education of this kind include:

- Citizenship – exploring moral, social and cultural issues.
- English – group discussion and interaction, reading for information.
- Physical Education – fitness and health.

Teachers ensure that the ideas, risk, danger and harm are explored progressively through the school so that pupils understand the difference between taking risks and courting danger, the difference between courage and recklessness and individual differences in adventurousness. This is taught in the clear context of the emphasis we place upon safety and personal responsibility.

Our drug education programme pays attention to the development of skills and the exploration of attitudes and values as well as ensuring that drug information provided is accurate and relevant.

Our pupils are helped to understand clearly that particular decisions about behaviour may lead inevitably to certain consequences. A range of situations and the pupils own experiences are used to illustrate this.

Every class generates its own ground rules to support feelings of safety and security and promote open expression of views and feelings. These are reviewed as required.

We try to balance teacher led input and written work with active learning methods to ensure pupil participation in all PSHCE. The methods we use include specifically active learning techniques such as drama, discussion, small group work.

We are careful to monitor and record the drug education work done in each class and the progress the pupils demonstrate in terms of their knowledge, skills and changing attitudes. This helps us review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of our work.

General power to confiscate

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so. Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child. We will inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure copy of which is available on the school website.

Drugs on School Premises

- No alcohol is allowed on to school premises other than in the possession of adults, unopened and for events such as raffles and the school fairs.
- Flowery Field School is a non-smoking site at all times, this includes e-cigarettes and vaping equipment.
- People suspected to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol are not permitted on the school site.

Medicines

Medicines must be in the care of teachers/staff or managed by pupils with teacher supervision. Please refer to the Managing Medicines in Schools Policy.