



DRUGS POLICY

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Author/s:	Principal
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RATIONALE

- An effective drugs policy is essential for achieving awareness and knowledge regarding substance misuse and the skills to deal effectively with such issues within our community.
- For children to recognize the dangers of substance misuse it is essential for them to be educated regarding the definition of drugs, including medicines and their safe use. This will be addressed through the context of PSHE sessions.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the Child Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Medicines, PSHE and Confidentiality policies.

SCHOOL ETHOS

In order to the above, all members of the school community need to work together towards the same goals and expectations. This includes governors, staff, children, parents and the wider community. As a community we need to recognize and understand the effects of illegal, legal and medicinal drugs and chemicals on our bodies and minds with the emphasis on keeping ourselves safe and healthy.

AIMS

- To prepare everyone in our community for the responsibilities and experiences of life whilst keeping our safety primary.
- To encourage self-motivation.
- To encourage competence and confidence by enabling pupil's to develop their critical thinking and decision making skills.
- To encourage individuality in a safe and healthy environment.
- To deliver positive strategies which equip our children with the skills to cope responsibly in a society where drugs are part of everyday life.
- To allow children access to up to date information as and when they should need it with objective support for those who disclose situations.
- To ensure staff report drug related incidents including non-classroom based staff as

this issue affects all aspects of our school community.

- The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it is up to date and relevant to our community.

BROAD GUIDELINES

- Whole school protocols should be current and support all members of the community based upon existing knowledge and understanding.
- To encourage all members of our community to explore attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users with mutual respect, self-discipline and social responsibility.
- To teach our children how to deal with the social and emotional aspects of life.
- To promote consistent strategies in identifying and responding to vulnerable families and offering them support in whatever way is thought appropriate to that individual and ensure that any support/plans are communicated efficiently to necessary parties.
- To deal effectively with occurrences of anti-social behaviour as a result of substance abuse on the school grounds.
- To develop understanding about rules and laws.
- To ensure policies and guidelines meet the needs of our pupils and school community.

TOOLS

- School rules focus on the positive, to encourage and maintain high self-esteem in all pupils.
- The above aims are achieved by using the Jigsaw programme and other appropriate resources as a whole school approach.
- SRE DFe guidance is followed.
- Health & Growth and Keeping Healthy is covered as part of the Science curriculum.
- The successful implementation of the policy is monitored by the PSHE Co-ordinator and the Principal.
- Outside agencies support the delivery of awareness and safeguarding training.

DEALING WITH ILLEGAL OR UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

Drug use is a matter which concerns the whole community as we all live in a drug orientated society, whether legal or illegal, in both a social or medical context. Unauthorised and illegal substances (any 'drug' brought into school without permission including alcohol) have no place in the school community and as our main concern is to safeguard health we will follow the following procedures:

- All matters will be dealt with in the presence of two adults, one of whom will be a member of the leadership team.
- Drugs of any kind found in the possession of any member of the school community will be handed to the Principal.
- This will then be identified or attempted to be identified as to whether the drug is illegal or unauthorized.
- Parents or Carers of children involved will be notified and if necessary the police will be informed

- Should it be felt necessary the Trust and LA will be notified if there is a publicity risk
- Information to the community may be necessary to re-assure them and to explain the procedures taken as soon as possible after the event.

DEALING WITH PARENTS OR CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY SUBSTANCE WHICH AFFECTS THEIR ABILITY TO KEEP THEMSELVES OR THEIR CHILD SAFE

- Staff will attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere should they be worried about releasing a child to the care of it's parent.
- Attempts to make alternative arrangements for the child using their contact sheet will be made.
- If the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, the police will be called alongside social services under the heading of child protection.
- Full records of any such incidents will be made and kept according to Safeguarding procedures
- If the parent or carer appears incapable of making a decision this will be made by the Principal

CONCLUSION

“With support and understanding children can learn to communicate their feelings, set themselves goals and work towards them, interact successfully with others, resolve conflicts peacefully, control their anger and negotiate their way through the many complex relationships in their lives today and tomorrow.”