

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

This policy has been written in line with the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools: Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies. (Sept 2012)

INTRODUCTION

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities.

As part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, Melbury Primary School takes a pro-active stance, believing that Drug Education is a vital part of the Personal, Social and Health Education of every pupil. We are a Drug Aware School (Awarded July 2018)

CONTEXT

Drug Education forms a part of the statutory order for National Curriculum Science and will be provided in the broader context of PSHE. Drug education is more than just information, it is important that children have the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to make positive choices in a drug-using world.

The school acknowledges that parents and carers have the prime responsibility for their child's health. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

Our primary concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

There may be some children with SEND or medical issues who need to take an authorised drug as part of their health care plan or a short-term illness. Please refer to the Medical Conditions Policy, Health and Safety Policy and relevant Risk Assessments for further information regarding this.

Other policies that relate to the implementation of this policy are:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- RSHE Policy
- Medicines policy

DEFINITIONS AND BOUNDARIES

Where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

This policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but also on all school visits, trips and residential, including those made outside of normal school hours. It will also be upheld on all school buses and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

AIMS

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

to provide children with knowledge and information about drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;

- to enable children to discuss moral and health 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;
- 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 illegal drugs is a moral, as well as a health 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.

CONTENT

Drug Education is taught at an appropriate level throughout each key stage beginning with the foundation curriculum through to Year 6. Jed and Ted resources are used for Year 1 to 6. It is taught in our 'Healthy Half term' each year.

The collection of baseline data about children's existing knowledge and attitude about drugs will be incorporated into the schools planned drug education and will be repeated periodically to monitor progress.

It may be that specific pupils or groups of pupils need some specialist support with regards to drugs education. In such circumstances school may refer, with parental consent, to outside agencies to deliver this.

THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The school is committed to promoting a healthy and supportive environment for the benefit of pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and visitors. As a city council building, smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises, defined by the boundary wall and gate at the front of the building and the inner black fence along the sides and back of the building including the school field and car parks. All incidents of smoking will be challenged. This also includes e-cigarettes.

Similarly, the misuse of drugs (including legal substances such as alcohol) by pupils, staff or visitors is prohibited within the stated school boundaries.

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other drug-using equipment are found discarded in the school premises. A sharps bin is available to clear up found sharps. Similarly if illicit substances are found or confiscated these will be safely stored and arrangements made with the police for their safe disposal.

The school environment also applies on trips and residential activities including those outside of normal school hours.

STORAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

The school acknowledges that, parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate. A contract will be agreed between the school and the parent or carer and records kept appropriately. Medicines will be administered by a first aider (refer to Health and Safety Policy, Medical Conditions Policy and associated risk assessments). Where necessary, school staff will receive training on specific medical conditions.

Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in either the refrigerator in the staff room or the labelled secure cupboard in the medical room.

All medication must be securely stored. On school trips this must also be kept locked away by the teacher in charge. Records for administration etc. must be kept in line with school policies.

PARENTS & PUPILS

The school acknowledges that parents and carers have the prime responsibility for their child's health. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

All pupils and parents have been made aware of the school's policy via the website. If young people are under the influence of drugs in school we will firstly ensure their safety and undertake any emergency measures before any action is taken. As a school, we can have a role in early help with young people affected by drug use. Parents will be informed of incidents unless there is a reason not to (such as an ongoing investigation or a safeguarding concern) Where necessary the police may be informed.

The Headteacher is permitted by law to authorise personal and property searches for drugs if there are reasonable suspicions that they are being concealed.

If parents are under the influence of drugs in school then we will follow safeguarding procedures and ask for advice if needed. Where necessary the police may be informed.

If it is suspected that members of the community are supplying drugs on school property the Police will be informed.

SUPPORT

We acknowledge that in today's society it may be likely that young people may encounter drugs such as alcohol or cannabis. We will offer a curriculum that reflects children's experiences and does not seek to scare, judge, sensationalise or stereotype in relation to substances, opting instead for a pro-health choice approach through PSHE.

We will provide pupil and parents with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drug issues.

DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

The school will consider each incident individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community whilst still upholding the law. Any sanctions enforced will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions; and will reflect the seriousness of the incident. After immediate medical needs have been addressed the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved. We recognise that any pupil misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency.

POLICE

In the event of an incident occurring within the school grounds the Police may be called. The number for the Nottingham Police is 101.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in line with safeguarding procedures.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LEA and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the school of a Drugs Co-ordinator, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy.

The Drugs Co-ordinator in our school is Samantha Clarke. The responsibilities of the drugs coordinator are:

- Overall charge of the process which forms and reviews the drugs policy.
- Responsibility for implementing monitoring systems.
- Responsibility for ensuring evaluation takes place and that informs policy review.
- Ensuring coordination and coherence of drugs education and the management of drug related incidents in conjunction with DSL's.
- Initiating and coordinating responses to any unplanned situation involving drugs in conjunction with DSL's
- Coordinating links with external agencies in conjunction with DSL's.

The nominated Governor with responsibility for drugs issues is Mr Miles Williams as part of his role as safeguarding governor.

STAFF SUPPORT & TRAINING

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained. Training will be provided as appropriate to keep abreast of developments in relation to drugs and drug issues and in line with our safeguarding policy.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

This policy will be monitored and every 3 years.

Revived March 2021
Next review March 2024