

Slaithwaite CE J & I School



Drugs Education Policy

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Responsibility for the policy and its implementation

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation in the school. This responsibility includes liaison with the governing Body, the parents and the LEA and other appropriate outside agencies.

Responsibilities include:

- Policy development and review
- Monitoring and assessing effectiveness of policy
- Coordinating the drug education programme
- Managing drug related incidents
- Ensuring that the health, welfare and well-being of pupils with drug related issues is addressed in an appropriate and sensitive manner

The schools stance towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils

Drug use is a matter that concerns the whole community e.g. the reality is, that we live in a drug orientated society where drug use has become commonplace. Drugs are used, legally and illegally, in both a social context, for example tobacco and alcohol, and in a medical context as prescribed and non-prescription drugs.

Unauthorised drugs have no place in the school community and our first concern in managing drugs is to safeguard health.

The school recognises that drug use is a fact of life and an issue that all young people will face as they grow up. Education has an important role in ensuring that young people have all the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed and health choices regarding their drug use, both now and in the future.

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

Drug education should:

- Provide accurate information
- Build on knowledge and understanding
- Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influences
- Develop understanding about rules and laws
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Develop self-awareness and self-esteem
- Explore risks and consequences
- Empower pupils to learn how to find information, help and advice
- Develop an awareness about the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- Be aware of the prevalence and acceptability of drug users among peers
- Develop an understanding of the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- Be relevant to the needs of the pupils and the school community

As a school we follow the PSHE Education programme of study which has three core areas and one of them is Health and Wellbeing. Within Health and wellbeing, the children learn about healthy lifestyles and choice and drugs, alcohol and tobacco. (Please see the PSHE curriculum for more information).

In addition, we use the Drugs and Alcohol Education program from Year 1 - 6. This is delivered by their class teacher. The curriculum overview is as follows:

Year 1 - Medicines and People Who Help Us

Year 2 - Keeping Safe

Year 3 - Smoking

Year 4 - Alcohol

Year 5 - Legal and Illegal Drugs

Year 6 - Preventing Early Use

Training and support for staff

Training needs differ according to role but all staff have access to this policy and the co-ordinator.

Assessing, monitoring and evaluating drug education

This is done through staff meetings and regular discussion with pupils.

Management of drugs at school

- Any substance which is questionable should be reported to the Head teacher immediately.
- Pupils/persons with serious concerns are referred to the Kirklees School Drug Scheme.
- It is the responsibility of all staff to deal with drug related issues. Appropriate responses to incidents can be found in the National Guidance or the Kirklees School drug Referral Scheme.
- The decision to involve the police rests with the school.
- The process for involving parents/carers in any drug related incident will be determined by the Head. Parents/carers are encouraged to approach the school to discuss issues or concerns.
- All issues in this matter or related to it will be dealt with in total confidentiality by the Head / safeguarding Officer.

The Head teacher will be responsible for any contact with the media. No member of staff should speak to the media about drug related matters.

Reviewed: May 2021

Full Review: September 2022