



St Nicholas Priory C.E. V.A. Primary School

Drug Education Policy

There is concern amongst many about the misuse of drugs in society. Research has proven that the average age of drug misuse is falling and that primary school children are becoming increasingly aware of illegal drugs and the misuse of these and other drugs. We therefore believe that drug education is essential to ensure understanding and enable children to make sensible, informed choices throughout their lives.

Primarily drug education is linked with health education but it also permeates other areas such as child protection, P.S.H.E and science. It is because it is common to other areas that it has been decided to address drug education in a policy of its own.

Aims and objectives

Due to the changes in society the need has now been created for our school to have a greater sense of drug awareness. The aims of this policy are to address the need for a greater awareness of drugs and to provide children with sufficient knowledge and understanding to make healthy decisions within given situations.

Definition of term 'drugs'

A drug is any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates change in perception and/or in mood and/or in how the body functions. The drugs included in this policy are:

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, ecstasy, and heroin
- Over-the counter medicines e.g. cough mixtures, paracetamol
- Prescription medicines e.g. tranquillizers
- Tobacco
- Volatile substances that are sniffed e.g. petrol, butane, aerosols, and glue.

The curriculum

Drug education is a cross-curricular area that should be taught within other subject areas as Science and PSHE.

Pupils should be taught; -

- 1) That all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) Which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their

effects and risks

3) About the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how they relate to their personal health.

4) To recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly.

5) That pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, and how to ask for help and basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.

6) The important and beneficial part which drugs have played in society.

Assessment

The elements of drug education that form part of the science curriculum must be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. The learning from the other elements of drug education should also be assessed as part of overall PSHE provision.

Assessment should identify knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes gained and developed. It should include formative, summative, teacher, pupil and peer assessment.

The PSHE Co-ordinator has overall responsibility for monitoring Drugs education within the school with feedback from, senior staff and teaching staff. The 'Drug Education Policy' will be reviewed on a regular basis

Teaching approaches/liaison with outside agencies

.It is important that drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Drugs education needs to be taught in the same ways as other curriculum subjects, through discussion, role-play, group and class work,

The coordinator will liaise regularly with outside advisors including the police and other agencies such as, social services, school nurse etc. as required.

Information to parents

The PSHE coordinator will provide parents with information on the drugs curriculum if they require it. Parents can come and observe a lesson at any time if the need arises.

Role of the coordinator

➤ To ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and school procedures when dealing with drug related incidents

➤ To liaise with social services, police, school nurse and other agencies as appropriate.

➤ To ensure own knowledge is updated when needed and that this information is given to staff.

➤ To keep detailed records of any drug related incidents.

Targets

➤ to provide opportunities for discussion and developing an awareness of drugs in order to make healthy and informed choices throughout their lives

Procedures for drugs related incidents

- If a pupil is found in possession of cigarettes, alcohol or an illegal substance they will have this removed from them and the parents will be invited into school to discuss the matter.
- If the substance is notifiable or unknown, it will be removed from the owner, locked in a secure place (the safe) and the police informed.
- If it is found that a child is using drugs, the parents are informed. The child may be in need of medical attention and the school may seek it if necessary. The head and child protection coordinator will be informed and a record made as 'cause for concern'.
- All adults working directly with the child or their siblings will be informed of the situation.
- If any child is found in possession of drugs, using drugs or encouraging the use of drugs in others on the school site, the disciplinary action would be taken.
- The head has overall authority and must be kept informed at all times.
- Although confidentiality will be maintained wherever possible, the welfare of staff and pupils is essential. Counseling and support for both the child and his/her parents will be provided through referral to appropriate agencies.

Drugs are increasingly becoming a part of our everyday lives. The use of this policy will hopefully go some way to achieving a greater awareness and understanding of drugs and preventing what they are capable of doing to our children.

Sue Miller
March 2013 (reviewed December 2015)

Signed James Wright Date 22.05.13

(Chair of Governors) (Adopted)