

Ibstock Junior School



Drugs and Medicines Policy

Signed Carolyn Lewis Head Teacher

Signed Julie Exley Chair of Governors

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Review Date March 2017

1 Introduction

1.1 In 2004, the DCSF updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

3 Terminology

3.1 The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

4 Ibstock Junior School statement

4.1 Ibstock Junior School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

4.2 We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

5 Responsibilities

5.1 The headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.
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5.2 The governing body will:

- ensure that the drugs policy is implemented as part of Health and safety

- support the headteacher in following these guidelines;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

6 Objectives of drugs education

6.1 Drugs education will be taught as part of the science and PSHE curriculum and should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents/carers, governors and staff.

7 Drugs education

7.1 We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

7.3 Pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We encourage pupils to consider the effects and risks of smoking. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.

7.4 We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

7.6 We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents or carers.

8 Drugs at school

8.1 Where children have medical needs, the school follows Code of Practice No.5 regarding the administration of medicines.

When children have prescribed drugs/medicines, they can take these medicines at school providing:

- a) the drugs/medicines are kept in a secure place (i.e. school office), away from the reach of other children.

- b) an adult (i.e. office staff) is present to oversee the self-administration of the drugs/medicines.
 - c) Parents write a list of clear instructions for administering the medicines/drugs and sign to indicate they are happy for the child to self-administer in front of an adult from school.
 - d) Medicines and drugs are clearly labelled with the child's name and handed into the office at the start of the school day.
- 8.2 Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils.
- 8.3 Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school.
- 8.4 Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand.

9 Drugs incidents

- 9.1 The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.
- 9.2 Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.
- 9.5 Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents or carers; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.
- 9.6 Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays, etc.
- 9.7 The headteacher will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.
- 9.8 A full record will be made of any incident.
- 9.9 The headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

10 The role of parents and carers

- 10.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:
- inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy;
 - answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
 - take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;

- 10.2 When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents or carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.
- 10.3 Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

11 Monitoring and review

The drugs policy will be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents and carers about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded.