

Cottesbrooke Infant School

Policy for managing drug related incidents

Statement of policy on substance use and misuse.

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.
- The school aims to uphold the laws concerning drug use and misuse.

Aims of drug education in this school.

That through the Science, PSHE/C, and PE policies and the discrete curriculum the children will be made aware of their bodies, how they function, and of the beneficial and possible detrimental effects of medicines, drugs, cigarettes alcohol and other substances.

The children will be made aware that they can make choices concerning health, exercise, hygiene and healthy eating. They will also be made aware that their actions may harm themselves or others.

We aim to meet the requirements of DfEE circular 4/95

These requirements being that

- All staff should be aware of the signs of possible drug misuse in pupils.
- The health and safety of all pupils is paramount.
- Staff are aware of the law concerning drug use/misuse.
- Staff are aware of the law concerning the handling of illegal substances in school.
- There is provision in the school behaviour management policy for dealing with any such incident.
- There should be an appropriate support network for pupils and their parents.

Objective.

The objective of this document is to clarify the school's attitude and approach to the handling of any drug related incident occurring on the

premises, concerning pupils or parents, which may directly affect pupil well-being. It aims to ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.

What is a drug? See (Drug Education Policy attached.)

At key stage one drugs are deemed to be any substance likely to be harmful to a child; household chemicals, alcohol, cigarettes, prescribed or other medicine when obtained without the knowledge of a responsible adult, (another child's inhaler e.g.) Efforts will be made to engender respect for, and an understanding of, the use of inhalers by children in school.

Managing Drug Related Incidents in School.

The class teacher will inform the Head Teacher (or Deputy or Senior Teacher) at the earliest opportunity of any incident.

Substances must be disposed of with extreme care. No member of staff should attempt to taste or analyse an unidentified substance.

At Cottesbrooke the Headteacher will decide on a method of disposal, or should she not be on the premises, it will be done by the most senior teacher available, putting the substance into the hands of the Police should this be deemed necessary.

N.B. It is permitted by law for school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and the offence of possession.

See appendix 2 "The Law on Drugs."

We will inform the Health Education Unit (303 8200) to seek their advice.

Should it be believed that a parent or other adult on school premises has an illegal or harmful substance they will be asked to leave the premises by the Head teacher. Failure to do so will necessitate the involvement of the police.

Should the incident involve a child the school's Behaviour Management Policy will be implemented as thought fit and the parents informed.

Action will be required where the following circumstances occur;

- Risk to a child either by their own actions or those of another child.

- Risk to a child from a parent or carer thought to be under the influence of illegal substances. (See also the school Child Protection Policy)

The roles of the Head Teacher and Governing Body.

"The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, Parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies... .. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained."

"The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school."

Source: Drug prevention and Schools. Circular 4/95.

The role of the class teacher is to ensure pupil safety at all times and to inform the Head immediately.

The following members of staff are First Aiders

Emma Rushworth

Suzanne Coles.

Drug education in the curriculum.

In England certain aspects of drug education are statutory. At key stage one pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines. To enable this to happen in this school we implement the QCA science and PE guidelines, PSHE/C non-statutory guidelines and ensure all staff are aware of drug issues perceived to exist. See the Drugs Education Policy attached.

We use visits from "Life Education Centres" LIFEBUS as a basis for our teaching of this area of the curriculum.

Outside agencies

Other agencies to be involved in dealing with drug related incidents at the discretion of the Head and Governors. (See also the Drug Education policy.)

Child Protection

See The Child Protection Act 1989, LEA Guidelines and the school policy document.

Recording of Incidents. See appendix 1.

Written 3/01

Amended 5/02. with input from Kathy Bird, B'ham HEU

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