



The Village Federation of Carsington & Hopton and Kirk Ireton Primary Schools



Drugs Education Policy

Introductory Statement:

The Village Federation is committed to investing in our pupils' health and well-being and by doing this we assist the process of raising the pupils' achievements. Our schools use the term 'drug' to include medicines, alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents.

The policy provides a clear picture of our approach to drug education and the management of drug-related incidents and support for pupils who have difficulties. It provides a secure framework within which school staff can work. We will ensure a balanced approach and promote healthy lifestyles. This will be delivered within the context of PSHE and the schools equalities policy. The policy is based on 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' (2004).

Aims:

'Drug Education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating to their own and others' actions'. 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools.' 2004.

The overall aims of the drug education programme are to:

- Develop a range of skills to enable children to make their own, informed decisions about drugs.
- Develop rules for, and ways of, keeping them safe.
- Increase knowledge and understanding about legal/illegal drugs and how these relate to personal health.
- Be part of a whole school approach via a spiral and integrated PSHE curriculum.
- Help pupils identify effective and trustworthy sources of help and support.
- To understand risks and the associated consequences.
- Develop self-confidence and assertiveness.
- To explore a range of views, clarify attitudes and challenge stereotypes.

Drugs education is an entitlement for every pupil. It is delivered according to the planning cycle in the manner appropriate to the age and development of children through the PSHE, Science, Circle time and other subject areas when and where appropriate. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community. Needs are also addressed as and when issues arise.

Parent/Carer Involvement:

We value the important role parents/careers lay within our school community and are committed to ensuring they:

- Have the opportunity to meet with staff as required.
- Are aware of the school policy.

Governor Involvement:

All governors are consulted about the drug education provision and policy and are kept up to date at Governor's meetings.

The Drug Education Programme:

The drug education programme is taught in a caring and safe environment where children's genuine questions and concerns can be sensitively addressed. Ground rules that are set cover issues such as teachers' and pupils' right to privacy and respect, and the boundaries of discussion. Pupils and teachers are discouraged from revealing any personal information.

Managing Drug Related Incidents:

Other than the legitimate use of medicines, it is against the school rules for children to bring any other drugs onto the school site. A drug related incident at this school is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine or use of tobacco and alcohol by children or adults.

The school believes it is in the best interests of all concerned to inform parents/carers of any reported drug related incidents. The exception would be where the school believes the child would be at serious risk from the parent/carer.

As in all circumstances where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect the Child Protection Procedures will be applied or a referral to the Social Services Department for a Child in Need Assessment if the school feels it doesn't constitute a child protection investigation.

The school will take full account of the circumstances when considering the role and involvement of the police. However if illegal drugs are found on the school premises the local police will be informed immediately.

The headteacher will take overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies.

Disposal of Injecting Equipment:

If staff find discarded injecting equipment they will follow the following procedure:

- Avoid handling the syringe wherever possible. Where possible sweep up the equipment onto a dustpan or piece of card. If staff have to pick up the syringe avoid the needle and handle by the barrel. Hold it so the needle points away from the body.
- Place any paraphernalia into a rigid container to be clearly labelled.
- If staff should sustain accidental injury from such an implement, seek medical attention immediately and complete an accident report.

The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil welfare seriously. Staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring and sensitive pastoral support for pupils in a number of ways. Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice. Where appropriate, pupils are referred to the school nurse and/or outside helping agencies.

School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures are made.

Monitoring and Reviewing:

Drug education is reviewed and evaluated as part of school practice by the staff and the children to ascertain what has been learnt and to establish how future work may become more effective.