
DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

This policy is aimed at all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and agencies working with Shiney Row Primary School.

Shiney Row Primary School recognises that drug misuse in our society is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Young people are influenced by their parents, their peers, youth culture and the media. Schools alone cannot solve the problem of drug misuse in society. An effective programme of drug education in school will however help to ensure that young people are aware of the risks of drug taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist. Thus we recognise our responsibility to treat drug misuse as an educational issue and to work, as appropriate, in partnership with the police, health services and parents to inform and protect the pupils of the school.

Whilst it is important to maintain a clear distinction between legal and illegal drugs, our policy is to place drug education firmly in the context of an overall health education programme. Our aim is to enable pupils to make informed decisions highlighting the functions and potential dangers that all forms of drug use have in individual lives and society as a whole.

Definition

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. It includes legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, GHB, ketamine and alkyl nitrites (poppers).

Values and Aims

Set in the broader context of personal, social and health education our drug education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and to take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community.

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

Drug education should:-

- Provide accurate information.
- Correct misunderstandings.
- Build upon knowledge and understanding.
- Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
- Develop pupils' understanding of rules and laws.
- Develop pupils' interpersonal skills.
- Develop pupils' self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs.
- Be relevant to the needs of pupils and the school community.
- Be fundamental to Shiney Row Primary School's values and practise is the principle of sharing the education of our pupils with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation.

Drug Education in the Curriculum

It is through PSHCE that the major degree of drug education is delivered. This programme offers the opportunity to reinforce the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and give pupils the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills to make informed and responsible choices, now and later in life without glamorising the subject by singling it out for separate treatment.

Assessing, Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing Drug Education

Assessment in PSHCE lessons seeks to judge achievement in drug education in wider terms than purely gains in factual knowledge.

Methods include:-

- Seeking feedback from pupils at the end of lessons on their progress and achievements, both individually and as a group.
- Teacher assessment of activities conducted and work completed.
- Class discussion aimed at helping pupils to identify what they should do next.
- Inviting pupils and teachers to reflect on the overall programme.

Parental Involvement

We value the support and encouragement of parents in our efforts aimed at preventing drug misuse. Parents are welcome to receive a copy of this policy document and are encouraged to discuss with school staff any concerns they may have about drug related issues.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use, in class or with individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is clear that they work within child protection guidelines which clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. Only in exceptional circumstances would sensitive information be passed on against a pupil's wishes but staff may have a moral and professional duty to do so, for example, in relation to co-operating with a police investigation and referring to external services.

Administration and Control of Medication

Prescribed medication only will be given to children in school. Parents will be encouraged to arrange times for medication outside the school day if possible.

Procedure:-

- An authorisation form must be signed by the parent/carer.
- The medication will be stored in a safe place.
- One member of staff will take responsibility for administering the medication.
- Inhalers can be administered by members of staff, according to instructions, as required.
- Children requiring medication on a regular daily basis will be identified and all staff made aware of their identity.
- Medication to be administered on a regular daily basis will be stored in the office.

- A designated member of staff will administer regular daily medication.
- Any misuse of prescribed medication will be dealt with as a drug related incident.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

When dealing with individual cases of substance misuse Shiney Row Primary School accepts the following responsibilities.

The paramount duty of care for the education, safety and well-being of pupils.

The observance of and compliance with the law.

Ensuring all records and correspondence are objective, factual and confidential whilst recognising that in the best interests of pupils certain people may have a “need to know” in order to harness available support.

It is not a legal requirement to retain a substance for the Police or to divulge the name of the person from whom the substance was taken.

Procedures

Should a substance be found on the school premises the Head Teacher, or if the Head Teacher is unavailable a senior member of staff, should be informed immediately.

- Removal and disposal of the substance must be witnessed and logged.
- Storage of the substance should only be resorted to if the Police are to be informed and asked to remove the substance.

If Police are to be contacted:-

- A substance must be stored, separately, in a safe place and only be touched by the finder (a “Sharps Box” is stored in the caretakers cupboard).
- The substance should be packaged and sealed with the date, time and place of finding noted upon the packaging.
- The package should be signed by the finder in front of a witness.
- The local Police should be contacted and asked to collect the substance.
- A Medical Emergency.
- Call an ambulance.
- Inform the paramedic, giving as much detail as possible.
- Give any drugs, legal or illegal, to the paramedic.
- Contact parent/carer.

Following a Drug Related Incident:-

- Those known to be involved will be interviewed in a calm, private setting.
- They will be made aware of confidentiality of information but that there may be a “need to know” issue.
- Parents/carers will be informed and invited to discuss the issue at school.
- Any support needed will be arranged with mutual agreement.
- Agreed sanctions will be put in place.
- Child protection procedures may need to be followed.