

1. Introduction

Redlands Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of our school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Research shows that, by the age of 11, many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete; for others it will develop through personal experience. Research also shows that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The figures also suggest that the first age of experimentation is decreasing and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' states that schools have an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risk.

We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug carries potential harm. For this reason all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

2. Purpose of this policy

- To increase the safety of the school community from drug related crime
- To reduce the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To reduce the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse
- To provide accurate information presented simply and clearly
- To provide access to adults other than teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum
- To provide opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding in a safe environment where children feel secure enough to play a full and active part

3. Objectives

- To develop children's personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions
- To encourage children to value themselves and others
- To encourage children to help and support others
- To clarify facts and correct false knowledge and beliefs
- To help children deal with the effect of media coverage of issues relating to drugs
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use

4. Definition

We define drugs as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances as well as legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

5. Drug Education at Redlands

Drug education at our school aims to enable pupils to make health, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. We will provide all pupils with drug education as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education

(PSHE) and Citizenship programme, through the teaching of Science and through circle time. All teaching is appropriate to the age and experience of the children.

Key Stage 1 – children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.

Key Stage 2 - children should be introduced to the fact that, whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects. In Year 5 and 6 children should begin to learn about the dangers of misusing other everyday substances such as aerosols, solvents and cleaning products, and to have an awareness of some illegal drugs.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse
- Practise decision making skills
- Become aware of peer pressure
- Develop assertiveness skills
- Consider the consequences of risk taking
- Learn how to access sources of help and information
- Emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- Evaluate media messages on drug use.

Use of visitors and outside speakers

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme. Such agencies will be expected to adhere to our school policy. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

6. Managing drug related incidents

Pupils, staff and visitors to the school are made aware of the school's drug policy.

Medicines

The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Staff should store their own personal medications safely, out of the eye-sight and reach of pupils. (See RBC Managing Medicines in School policy and RBC Supporting Children with Medical Conditions policy.)

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by permission of the Headteacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

Tobacco

The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (only exception permitted is aerosol Ventilin or any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored safely).

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community, regular checks are made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are clear away safely and legally.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items, on school premises

- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours and reports of drug possession, supply or drug use.

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's primary responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Headteacher will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the wellbeing of our pupils.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

7. Procedures

Medical emergencies

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of harm, medical help may be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

Hearsay/rumour

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteacher who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of teachers' concerns to be compiled. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one school year, the evidence will be removed from the records.

Suspicious behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

Finding substances

If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval
- The size and appearance of the substance
- The names of those concerned
- The action taken

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and, in the case of such items as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents will be informed.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteacher or HT's representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies.

"Headteachers and staff authorised by them have the statutory right to search pupils or their possessions, without their consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items [include]: alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and cigarette papers" (Searching,

Finding drugs

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the wellbeing of the pupil is paramount. In all instances:

- Separate the child from the rest of the group
- Decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare
- Inform parents

Supply of illegal substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Recording

All incidents will be recorded at the earliest opportunity but always within 24 hours.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, although information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, particularly when seeking support, this information will not be used against them notwithstanding any illegal/controlled substances. However, action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and, if possible, enable the pupil to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their information may implicate others.

8. Staff training and support

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support with work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents, should they arise. The Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will endeavour to organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

All staff need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education and be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.

9. Policy dissemination, monitoring and evaluation

A copy of the school policy is available on requests from the school office.

Review date: Spring 2020