



Eastburn
Junior and Infant School

Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

June 2018

Eastburn Junior and Infant School Statement

Eastburn Junior and Infant School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable. 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.

Terminology

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;
- All medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Introduction

In 2004, the DfES updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme and guidance from the LA.

Aims and Objectives

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.

Responsibilities

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure that staff and parents 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.

The governing body will:

- Establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- Support the Headteacher in following these guidelines;
- Support the Headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

Drugs Education

Drugs education 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, governors and staff.

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. Teaching about drugs is also supported by the use of outside agencies.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

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.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes, a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs at school

Pupils may bring prescribed medication into school, in line with the guidelines specified in our 'Administration Of Medicines Policy'. In specific circumstances school may agree to administer prescription medication. Parents must sign a medication administration form. Parents may visit the school in the lunch break to bring and administer prescribed medication themselves, by prior arrangement.

Where children have long term medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. These arrangements will form part of the child's Medical Care Plan. Asthma medication is stored securely in the classroom. EpiPens and any emergency inhalers are stored in the Staff Room. Other drugs will be stored securely in the medicine cabinet located in the Staff Room.

Medication administration forms must be completed whenever medication is brought into school. Parents will complete the form with a member of staff; if the medication is to be administered this will be done by identified member of staff from the medication administration form.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent based Tipp-ex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Legal drugs are legitimately used 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 or on the school site.

Drugs incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs. The first priority is safety and first aid. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

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.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

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. The Headteacher will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally. A full record will be made of any incident and recorded on CPOMs.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs policy through the school website;
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the drugs education that their child receives;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy;

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff would never discharge 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 behavior 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.