

Victoria Primary School

Policy for Drugs

This policy applies to all pupils/students, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members attending the school or whilst on school business including off-site visits and trips.

Aim

The aim of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.

Objectives

Increasing knowledge, changing attitudes and enhancing skills

To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse, substance abuse, smoking and alcohol abuse, equipping them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs and to help avoid school problems associated with drug misuse.

Behaviour

To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse.

To delay the age of onset of first use for those who do experiment at any time.

To minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse.

To persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop.

To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help.

Citizenship

To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.

To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle.

Context

Drug education will be provided in science and in the broader context of teaching of health and personal and social education as part of a pupil's life skills and preparation for adulthood.

It should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest.

It should take account of the age, sex and cultural/social background of the pupils at which it is targeted.

It should take account of the local circumstances and culture of the community.

It should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.

It should aim to teach pupils the necessary social and personal skills described in objectives above.

Content, Method and Organisation

It should be delivered in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse.

It should be provided at regular intervals throughout the school career so as to maximise its effectiveness.

It should be provided by teachers and /or other professions with specific training in the requirements of drug education and issues relating to drug misuse.

It should be evaluated.

It should be backed up with access to advice or help for pupils with problems or concerns.

Procedures for Drug Management

The safety of the pupils is always paramount. The warning signs of drug or substance abuse are many and varied. (See pgs 12/13 - What If ...? Drugs Appendix 1)

Any suspected misuse of substances or drugs will be immediately reported to the headteacher who will take appropriate action with regard to the safety of the pupils within the care of the school.

The school will consider any incident individually. We recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary to deal with any incidents that arise. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community.

For details of the drug education across the key stages in school, see curriculum information on the school website: www.victoria.bradford.sch.uk

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

All pupils have an equal right to access to Drugs Education irrespective of ability, gender, capability, characteristics, racial or ethnic group, religious belief or social background, in such a manner that they can learn at the appropriate level.

Working with parents

The school will work closely with parents as appropriate.

Use of External Agencies

The school will involve the school health service and the local community police officer in the delivery of our drugs education programme such as the Life Education Caravan

Reviewed: September 2018

Appendices

What Are We Looking For? Appendix 1

APPENDIX 1 - What Are We Looking For?

Signs and Symptoms

<p>Remember! Some signs of drug misuse are normal signs of adolescence INHALANTS</p>	<p>ALCOHOL</p>
<p>Odour of substances on clothing breath and body Stains on clothing including shoes Redness around the eyes, mouth and nose Drowsiness to unconsciousness Complaints of headaches and dizziness Coughing Co-ordination is affected Loss of energy and appetite Pallor Drunken-like behaviour Presences of "tools" of the habit - cans, aerosols, bottles, rages, small plastic bags</p>	<p>Mild to marked disinhibition Feelings of relaxation and euphoria Sociability in some - hostility in others Slurred speech. Balance, vision, hearing impaired Co-ordination is affected Increased reaction time Concentration is impaired Judgement affected. User can look warm/flushed Abrupt mood swings Memory may be impaired Hangover effect Drowsiness, sleep, stupor and possible death</p>
<p>AMPHETAMINES</p>	<p>ECSTASY</p>
<p>Restlessness Garrulousness Dizziness Irritability Appetite suppressed Weight loss Feelings of euphoria and self-confidence Possibility of feelings of panic, confusion and paranoia Possibility of aggressive behaviour Dry mouth Bad breath Ulcers in mouth and nasal passages Pupils dilated NB Cocaine produces much of the same symptoms but probably of a more intense nature</p>	<p>Rushes of exhilaration, possibly accompanied by nausea Sensations are enhanced Believed the experience is highly controllable Sensation of understanding and acceptance of others Inhibitions lessened Often experience depression after Possibility of overheating, inducement of heatstroke Possibility of extreme sensitivity. Increased energy Fatigue and weight loss Possibility of anxiousness or confusion Co-ordination may be affected Possibility of paranoia Possibility of insomnia Usually calm attitude</p>

HALLUCINOGENS (e.g. LSD)	CANNABIS
<p>User experiences altered perceptions of time and space</p> <p>Possible mild to severe panic</p> <p>Possibility of confusion</p> <p>Swings of mood and behaviour</p> <p>May appear quiet and introspective, or extra vigilant</p> <p>Inhibitions lessened</p> <p>Increased body temperature and blood pressure</p> <p>Sweating alternating with chills</p> <p>Control of thinking and concentration diminished</p> <p>Users may vividly report on their experiences</p> <p>Motor-skills/co-ordination impaired</p> <p>Numbness and muscle twitching</p> <p>Feeling of exhilaration or anxiety</p> <p>Nausea and vomiting</p>	<p>Tipsy-like behaviour</p> <p>Odour of the substance if smoked</p> <p>Spontaneous laughter</p> <p>Talkativeness</p> <p>Concentration becomes difficult</p> <p>Balance impaired</p> <p>User displays exhilaration and euphoria</p> <p>Senses of sight, hearing, touch and taste are enhanced</p> <p>User experiences visual and spatial distortions</p> <p>Relaxed and/or drowsy symptoms</p> <p>Co-ordination is impaired</p> <p>Confusion and disorientation</p> <p>Headache and hangover effects</p> <p>Some reddening of the eyes</p> <p>Impairment of judgement due to disinhibition</p> <p>Excessive eating</p>