

Huntspill Community Federation



DRUGS & SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY



Lead Person: Derek Nevell
Committee: Welfare
Policy Date: Spring Term 2018

The Huntspill Federation is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Purpose of the policy

- i. To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors
- ii. To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- iii. To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- iv. To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum

Inclusive definition of drugs

We define a drug 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 and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco and medicines.

Rationale/key principles

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their uses and effects.

Teaching

Our approach to drugs education is one which children are given information in the belief that increased knowledge about drugs and the risks will empower children to make informed and safe decisions. We approach this in a sensitive manner appropriate to the age and experiences of the children concerned. Drugs education is part of the planned PSHE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of Science. The NC guidelines for science require that children are taught:-

- i. At KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines
- ii. At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

Outside visitors

If outside speakers are used in any aspect of drugs education, their contribution will be properly planned. They will support the work of the teacher who will meet with the speaker beforehand to plan the work and explain the school's policy on drug education. Teachers will be present and involved in all sessions and will evaluate the work afterwards. The teacher has overall responsibility for the session and the work planned.

Managing drug related incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the school's commitment to:-

- i. The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- ii. The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- iii. The law concerning drugs

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The School's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole. The Headteacher will be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.