

Policy for Drug and Substance Misuse Education

Earl Soham Community Primary School



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Approved by:

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Context of the Policy

Although at Earl Soham Community Primary school there has been no direct experience of substance or drug misuse, the staff and governors recognise that pupils may be exposed to risks in the drug using society in which they are growing up. National research (Autumn 2017), from [NHS Digital](#), found 24% of 11-15-year-olds saying they had tried recreational drugs at least once in their lives, a nine percentage point rise on the last survey, in 2014. This Policy is our response to these issues and is intended to support the Government's Drugs Strategy (2017)..

Formation of the Policy

In formulating the Policy a variety of issues were considered including:

PSHE Education throughout the school
Science education (that part related to drugs, medicines and bodily functions)
LEA initiatives and directives
Police initiatives
The local situation

The School Viewpoint

A drug is any substance which affects the way in which the body functions either physically, emotionally or mentally. It includes legally available substances such as alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines and illegal drugs.

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of those substances.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will make every effort to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to support all pupils.

Aims

Our primary aim is to keep our pupils safe. We aim to provide them with a secure environment in which to work and play, and to enable them to make healthy and informed choices by increasing their knowledge and helping them to develop and practise skills.

Curriculum Objectives

- To enable pupils to develop a sense of worth and good self esteem
- To encourage positive attitudes towards personal health
- To help pupils to develop skills that will enable them to take responsibility for their own health and safety
- To enable pupils to understand, express and communicate their feelings
- To help children develop confidence and competence in personal relationships
- To develop in a safe environment the necessary skills to handle pressure
- To provide accurate information about substances which is age appropriate

Procedural Objectives

We wish to ensure that the school has the correct procedures in place for handling incidents and suspected incidents of substance and drug misuse should this situation ever arise.

We aim:

- To avoid panic
- To put the needs of the child(ren) first
- To fully ascertain the nature of an incident before deciding on a response
- To use the pastoral system within the school as a first response to any incident involving a child
- To involve parents/carers at all times and to involve police and other agencies where appropriate
- To treat any incident confidentially, within the defined limits of the school's Safeguarding policy, without compromising the position of the teacher

Drug Education within the Curriculum

We believe we have a duty to inform and educate all our pupils in the risks of drug and substance misuse and to provide them with the necessary skills to resist such pressures. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter.

Drug education is not isolated from the rest of the curriculum, but forms part of a broad social and health education programme which also includes tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances and other substances whose use or misuse may have harmful effects on the body. Aspects of drug education are included in Science teaching as stated in the National Curriculum, but drug education also permeates many other subjects.. We aim to provide a systematic programme of learning experiences relating to drug education.

Resources for Drug Education

The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for the provision of materials to support Drug Education. Such resources will be selected in accordance with the following criteria:

- The resource has been previewed prior to any decision about its use.
- The values implicit in the resource support the school's drug education policy.
- The material is factually accurate and unbiased.
- The material is appropriate to the age, understanding and background of the pupils.
- The material is accessible to the full ability range (or can be adapted for differing abilities).
- Teachers are sufficiently trained to use the resource appropriately as part of the planned programme.

We recognise that visitors to the classroom may provide valuable expertise. Any involvement of an outside agency will be in accordance with our safeguarding protocols alongside the following criteria:

- At all times the class teacher will be present and will take the lead in managing the lesson.
- All contacts are co-ordinated through the PSHE Co-ordinator to ensure consistency and adherence to the school policy.
- Any visitor is made aware of the school's policy on drug education prior to any visit to school.
- Any visitor is informed in advance about the class, their range of abilities and their existing knowledge base about the topic.
- There is a clear context for the involvement of any outside agency e.g. What has gone before and how the input will be followed up.

Unsolicited offers of talks to pupils, videos and other promotional materials will be regarded with caution, in accordance with the above criteria and also the school's Safeguarding Policy.

Management of Drugs and Medicines within the School Boundaries and on School Trips

The names of children who require regular or emergency medication in school, for example asthma inhalers and epi-pens, will be recorded on a register. Medicines will be stored in the school office (or in the case of medicines which must be refrigerated, in the refrigerator in the staff-room) and their use overseen by a member of staff.

All medicines, including short-term medicines, administered in school will be accompanied by a signed and dated parental permission slip. Each time a medicine is administered it will be recorded.

When children leave the school grounds, medicines will be carried by the accompanying member of staff, except in the case of inhalers, where these will usually be carried by the child, with their use overseen by an accompanying adult.

On residential trips, all medicines will be the responsibility of the accompanying member(s) of staff. A register of administration of medicines will be kept.

The school will not administer any medicines to children without parental consent.

Dealing with Suspected Incidents

Any drug related or substance misuse incident will demand its own particular response depending upon the specific circumstances. However, incidents will most probably be one of the following:

- The finding of an illegal substance or residue of such a substance on the school premises.
- A pupil showing the physiological effects of partaking in drug or substance misuse.
- A pupil being found in possession of an inappropriate substance or identified as being involved in the distribution of such a substance.
- A pupil reporting the involvement of another individual in drug or substance misuse on or off the school premises.

To avoid any possible accusations of complicity all drug or substance misuse incidents must be reported to the Head Teacher who will respond promptly in accordance with the procedures in appendix 1.

Document History

Version	Date	Author	Comments
Issue 1	June 2014	James Mansell	Initial publication
Issue 2	June 2016	Peter Lambillion- Jameson	Amendment
Issue 3	June 2018	Peter Lambillion- Jameson	Amendment

Appendix 1

(I) Procedures for dealing with the residue of any drug misuse.

The school grounds will be checked regularly. If any paraphernalia associated with drug misuse e.g. bottles, cans etc., are found they will be disposed of discreetly with ordinary litter. However if “works” (i.e. needles and syringes) which present a significant health hazard are discovered they will be handled with considerable care i.e. removed by a responsible adult suitably protected by rubber gloves and preferably using tongs. They will be placed in a durable receptacle e.g. biscuit tin and Suffolk Police will be contacted. .

Procedures for dealing with any other drug related incident.

Examples of good practice in the event of any drug related incident include the following:

1. Consult colleagues.

All teaching staff should be informed in order that they may assist with the response to the incident.

2. Investigate

An investigation should establish the facts surrounding the incident. Where suspect substances are found or allegations are substantial the investigation should be formalised. Where this is not the case an internal resolution may be appropriate.

3. Evaluate the situation and consider a response.

The Head Teacher should take time to determine an appropriate initial response to the incident. Advice from community agencies e.g. drug support groups may be sought.

4. Contact Parents/Carers.

Parents/Carers should be invited to school at an early stage to discuss the incident with staff and other agencies as appropriate.

5. Inform Chair of Governors.

Governors need to be informed in order that they may support the actions of the Head Teacher.

6. Contact L.E.A. Support Services.

Inform LEA of the nature of the incident and await their response.

7. Contact Police.

The police can provide valuable expert advice in dealing with drug related incidents and will ensure that any necessary external action is taken.

8. Consider any requirement for any immediate temporary pupil exclusion. Exclusion at this stage should only be seen as temporary and must be in accordance with the exclusions policy.

9. Assist Police Investigation.

In the unlikely event that the police decide to formally investigate the incident the school must give such investigation its full support.

10. Convene a group of specialists to draw up an action plan.

In consultation with other agencies draw up a long term action plan to deal with the effects of the current incident and prevent further drug related or substance misuse incidents. The other agencies involved may include the L.E.A., Police, Drug Support Groups and Area Health Authority as appropriate.

11. Prepare a Press Release.

All support agencies should direct Press enquiries to the school. In the event of the Head Teacher receiving an enquiry from the press it is desirable to have a prepared press statement available.

Further information on the completion of any of the response steps may be obtained from the references listed at the end of this document.

References

D F E

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools September 2012

Suffolk Constabulary

POSITIVELY TACKLING INCIDENTS – POLICE AND SCHOOL LIAISON (Advice for schools and other CYP settings)