



Drugs Policy

Date Approved 17.9.12
Revised November 2017, Sept 2018
Author / Owner Mrs R Sharp
Review date September 2020

Version 3

1. Context

Eldwick Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists. The school aims to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

This policy has been developed, in conjunction with DfE guidance, as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the child.

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks'. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- *alcohol and tobacco*
- *'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches*
- *prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers*
- *volatile substances such as glues and aerosols*
- *illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy*

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs.

2. Policy Statement & Aims

To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop.

To ensure all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, the expectations about their behaviour, and the policy regarding drug incidents and concerns about individuals.

To promote clarity about the management of drug related incidents in the school: developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.

To encourage and enable pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.

To educate pupils on the dangers of alcohol and drug misuses enabling them to make reasoned, informed choices.

To support and engage parents/carers and pupils in their own personal learning and responsibilities.

To enable young people and staff to access support structures (including the voluntary sector), e.g. CAMHS, counselling, and treatment.

3. Equal Opportunities / Cultural Diversity

Whilst some pupils may have a broad knowledge and insight into the world of drugs, there are those who have little or no knowledge at all. Teachers need to be sensitive to this issue and that lessons are planned to take account of pupils' age, culture, experience and maturity. The needs of SEND pupils will be taken into account by the teacher who may need to provide different resources, activities or specific support to some pupils.

4. School Governors, Leaders And Staff Responsibilities

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, in liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Council and appropriate outside agencies. The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained. All staff have a responsibility to read and follow Appendix A,B & C, to attend training and to ensure all pupils are taught and encouraged to become independent and confident citizens with an increasing ability to make informed choices about their own health and environment.

5. Specific Procedures To Implement Policy Aims

Eldwick Primary is a smoke free environment.

To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and illicit drugs.

To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.

To provide staff INSET and parental information evenings: early intervention can prevent drug misuse.

To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self esteem.

To engage parents/carers in the school community and learning process.

To enable pupils and staff to access support if they have concerns about their own or others' drug use.

6. Dissemination of the Policy

This policy will be placed on the school website. A paper copy will be kept in the non-curriculum folder at the school's reception.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Headteacher is responsible for dealing with any alcohol or drug related issues within the school. Senior managers are involved in monitoring and evaluation.

Pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors are consulted and the programme and policy are modified where appropriate.

There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.

Drug education is reviewed in line with current LEA and Government guidelines.

8. **Document History**

Appendix A,B & C Drugs situations, Responding to incidents involving drugs and Record of incident involving unauthorised drug.

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's policies:PSHE and Citizenship

Behaviour

Inclusion

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Health and Safety (COSHH)

Administration of Medication