

## **DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

### **Principle**

We are committed to promoting the well being of the school community and will take action to safeguard this.

A drug education programme shall be taught as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. The programme will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the children and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

### **Staff Development**

Staff will receive training as and when required.

### **Related School Policies**

Health and Safety, and Equal Opportunities Policies.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

### **Aims**

To introduce children to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines. To enable children to make informed choices.

### **Objectives**

- To provide opportunities for children to acquire knowledge and understanding about how to keep safe and healthy.
- To introduce children to the role of drugs as medicines.
- To develop skills which will enable children to make their own choices and decisions.
- To develop assertiveness skills.
- To explore attitudes and values towards drugs.

### **Strategies for Teaching and Learning**

The programme shall be taught explicitly within the basic curriculum of PSHE as part of a theme. It also has cross-curricular links to Science.

### **Outside Agencies**

Outside Agencies will be involved, including the police, where appropriate.

### **Resources**

See 'Getting it Right' package.

## **MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS PROCEDURE**

### **What is 'In School'?**

- On school premises, including buildings and grounds.
- When taking part in off-site activities and school visits.
- Children's use of school premises and grounds beyond the school day.
- Use of school facilities and grounds by the community (including children) out of school hours.

### **Hearsay**

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. Report it to the Headteacher who will record the information. A record of concern can be built up to avoid rumour.

### **Suspicious Behaviour**

Such behaviour should be treated in the same way as hearsay. In this way patterns of behaviour may become apparent and appropriate support offered.

### **Finding Substances**

1. If a substance is discovered which is suspected of being harmful, illegal or needing investigation, it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness.
2. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police shall be informed.
3. A record of the find, and action taken, must be kept.
4. If a substance is received or retrieved from a child this should be done in the presence of a witness.
5. In either case the incident should be recorded. The following information should be recorded:
  - Date and time of find or substance retrieved
  - Size and appearance of substance
  - The names of those concerned
  - Action taken
6. The child's parents should be informed of the action taken.

### **Finding Equipment**

The caretaker shall tour the building and grounds daily. Any equipment discovered should be handled with care. The incident must be recorded and the information stated in point 5 above is required. Needles and syringes should be placed in a rigid container for collection by the appropriate service.

### **Searching**

1. Any search of school property may be authorised by the Headteacher, or Deputy, where there is reasonable cause to suspect the present of prohibited items. They should be carried out in the presence of a witness and any named child implicated should be present.
2. Members of staff should never carry out searches of a child's property or person.
3. Staff should try to persuade voluntary production of any unlawful substances.
4. If it proves necessary to search a child's property or person a police officer must be required and parents informed as soon as possible.
5. There must be reasonable grounds to suspect the child of possessing illegal substances for any police officer to carry out a search.

### **Finding Drugs in Use**

1. If a child is found in possession of a substance suspected of being illegal, the school will inform the police.
2. Direct supervision will be necessary to ensure the substance is not disposed of or swallowed.
3. The sanctions and procedures to be followed when pupils are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents, prescribed and over the

counter medicines will be found in the section entitled 'Sanctions and Support'.

4. In an emergency arising from a drug related incident the well-being of the child will be paramount. In all circumstances:
  - Separate the child involved from the rest of the group
  - Decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare
  - Inform parents of the incident.

### **The Supply of an Illegal Substance**

It is an offence knowingly to permit the production or supply of any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved immediately in such circumstances.

### **Returning Articles Which Have Been Confiscated**

Any articles confiscated and not required by the police will be returned to the parents. Parents will be informed as soon as possible that the articles have been confiscated and await collection from the school. An explanation will be given as to why the school believes it inappropriate to return them to the child directly. If the articles are not collected within 7 days they will be disposed of.

### **Procedure for Working with the Media**

The school will adopt the approach to Media enquiries promoted by Southampton City Council Press Office. Responses to media enquiries must be handled carefully via the Headteacher, Deputy and Chair of Governors.

### **Sanctions and Support**

The school will work with the parents to support children. If a member of staff is concerned that a child may be at risk from drug misuse s/he will need to discuss his or her concerns with the Headteacher. If the Headteacher believes the child is at risk from taking drugs, the parents will be informed. Where there is concern that the parents may be involved in drug misuse child protection procedures will be followed.

If a child voluntarily discloses information about drug misuse, it is important to:

- Not over-react
- Listen to the child's point of view
- Not jump to conclusions
- Remember that the child may not view his/her/the drug misuse as a problem.

The child needs to understand that a member of staff can offer no guarantee of confidentiality.

### **Special Educational Needs and Equal Opportunities**

The content and methodology used will be appropriate to the needs and maturity of the children, including those with special educational needs, and will reflect children's local circumstances and current knowledge and attitudes towards drugs.

### **Monitoring, Review and Evaluation**

The Headteacher shall monitor the implementation of the policy. The policy shall be reviewed in line with the School Development Plan.