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Marlborough St Mary's CE VC Primary School



MARLBOROUGH
ST MARY'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Drug Education and Incident Policy

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Rationale

As a school we are committed to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in the world where a range of drugs exist. 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 staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

Aims

- To educate pupils about legal and illegal drugs
- To empower pupils to be able to be assertive and say “no” to illegal drugs and be aware of the most common possibilities of being offered illegal substances.
- To support the school to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all members of the school's community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

Definition of drugs

We define a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way that our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Drug Education

We recognise the importance of teaching a comprehensive and clear drug education programme to all pupils as part of our Science and PSHCE programmes and provide the guidance required to enable our pupils to deal effectively with the range of drug related situations which may occur within their lives. The curriculum is well planned and supervised by the school in accordance with the National Curriculum, and the Healthy School Standard.

Drug education at our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision-making skills.

Marlborough St Mary's School uses the Wiltshire 'Learn 4 Life' PSHCE programme to teach children about harmful substances. The programme is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils. The programme will be delivered within an ethos of trust, respect and honesty and pupils will know that their views, feelings and opinions will be valued.

Use of visitors and outside speakers

Drug education in our school can be supported by the following: Life education centre, School Health Nurse and Police Liaison Officer. We use visitors to support our planned teacher led programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Parents and Carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective we will

- inform parents about the school drug education policy and practice
- answer any questions parents may have about the drug education their child receives in school
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drug education in the school
- encourage parents to support the key messages being given to children in school

Evaluation

The programme is regularly evaluated through;

- Staff feedback.
- Peer assessment.
- Self assessment.
- Observation of children by teacher
- Discussion between staff and child.
- School Council feedback.

This will be fed back to the PSHCE co-ordinator.

Medicines

The school has procedures in place for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. For details see the school's Medical Conditions Policy

Smoking Prevention (Please refer to the No Smoking Policy)

The school and grounds are a completely smoke free zone. All supply staff and visitors are made aware of this. Information about our status is provided on the website and in the Staff Handbook.

The children's questions and concerns about smoking and its related health issues are dealt with sympathetically by all staff as they occur. Any incidents of pupils smoking would be reported immediately to the Head Teacher and parents informed.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of this type of product.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

The school does not condone the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, or the illegal supply of these substances. The school is committed to the health and safety of its staff and pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The school recognises its shared responsibility with parents, seeks to work closely with them and welcomes their co-operation and support in the stand against substance misuse.

Staff should report any concerns regarding a pupil being involved in substance misuse (whether directly or indirectly), to the head teacher and parents will be informed where appropriate.

To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made to ensure that the site is safe. Any substances or drug related items e.g. needles and syringes, will be cleared away safely and legally by staff. Pupils will be taught to tell an adult if anything of this nature is discovered on school premises. Incidents will be recorded.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individual's disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours of drug possession supply or use.
- Reports or drug possession supply or use.

Guiding Principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. We seek to work in line with national and local guidance on all drug related issues.

The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

Medical emergencies

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk

of harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if possible. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any pupil on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal the school will contact the police. Staff will not intervene and police will be responsible for the hand over of the drug as well as the disposal of it. Parents and carers of pupils will normally be informed and other professionals may be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Support for pupils

At our school the welfare of the pupil is paramount. We maintain that constructive strategies that enable the pupils to continue to benefit from continued education are preferable to exclusion.

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional need of pupils will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil shows signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of a parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral. Exclusion from school will rarely be considered, as it is recognised that excluded pupils become significantly more vulnerable to drugs than those with formal schooling.

Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely in the Head teacher's office.

Policy Links

Other policies linked to this policy are:

- Child Protection Policy
- PSHCE Policy.
- Equal opportunities Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- No Smoking Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy