



Drug Education and Incidents Policy and Guidelines

Rationale

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use, delay the onset of first use, reduce the harm caused by drugs and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help. Drug related issues in this school are rare but we are aware that in Brighouse misuse of drugs in the local community can be a problem.

Aims

The aim of drug education at St Andrew's Infant School is to:

- Help pupils begin to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge about the effects of drugs
- Encourage pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions
- Promote individual, family and community responsibility for healthier lifestyles

Objectives

The learning objectives will give children the skills and knowledge to:

- Understand that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- Obey simple rules relating to drugs
- Recognise that they can make choices
- Recognise the difference between right and wrong
- Make simple choices that improve their health and well-being

Guidelines

- Drug education is delivered sensitively in a holistic manner through the PSHE curriculum
- When planning the curriculum, consideration will be given to pupils' diversity of race and experience, those who are on regular medication and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

Managing Drugs Related Incidents

Our responsibility as a school is for the safety, health and wellbeing of the pupils in our care. The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and in meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils. This policy applies to children, teenagers and all adults who come on to the school site (buildings and grounds) and any situation where children are supervised by staff.

Definition of a drug

The definition of a drug is: a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term 'drugs' is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs, legal (including alcohol, volatile substances that are inhaled) and illegal (those covered by the misuse of drugs act) and all over the counter and prescription medicines. Illegal and other unauthorised drugs will not be permitted in the school building or grounds or during any situation where children are supervised by staff.

Drug Related Incidents

The Head of School has overall responsibility. Incidents of this nature include:

- Observation of a pupil demonstrating through actions or play with an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age

- A pupil, parent or member of staff through to be under the influence of drugs
- A member of staff having information about the illegal sale of drugs in the area

Responding to incidents involving drugs

When a drug related incident has been identified, the school will conduct a careful investigation to judge the seriousness of the incident. The incident will be recorded on the form in Appendix 11 from Drugs Guidance document DfES/009202004 p.122 available in the school office.

1. Finding Drugs or Paraphernalia on school premises or in the grounds

- Remove items using medical gloves, inform the Head of School and store temporarily in the office
- Record details, in the presence of a witness, on the form described above
- The police should be notified if a suspected illegal drug is found – they will arrange for collection or disposal
- If suspicious substances are found they will also be handed to the police for disposal
- There is no legal obligation to divulge a child's name
- If a pupil has been suspected as being under the influence of drugs and there is no medical emergency, the pupil should be kept calm and under close supervision
- In a medical emergency call for medical help/ambulance
- Follow first aid procedures until help and/or a parent arrives

2. Disclosures

- May be made about drug use by pupil or parent, or by a parent concerned about their child's drug use
- Offer further advice/information. Further action may not be necessary for all disclosures. Consider whether drug use could be problematic or indicate other problems requiring further action
- Consider issues of confidentiality and explain issues to parents involved. Staff cannot and should not promise complete confidentiality
- If there is a child protection issue or where life is in danger, sensitive information may be passed on against the wishes of the child; however this must be the exception and not the rule

3. Illegal Sale or Supply of Drugs on School Premises or Grounds

- In all cases staff should refer to Drugs Guidance document p8-117 for further advice and information. If suspected illegal, the school should decide whether to inform the police; there is no legal obligation but not to do so could be counter-productive. This includes the illegitimate sale of prescribed medicines (e.g. Ritalin)

4. Investigating an Incident

- When investigating a drugs related incident, emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open ended questions rather than closed or leading questions. Pupils involved in an incident will be separated and the school will ensure that a second adult is present during an investigation. If during the course of the investigation it is judged that the police should be involved, detailed questioning should cease until the police arrive.

5. Drug Detection

- Members of staff should not carry out a personal search
- Where a parent is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school premises and where there is concern that discharging the child into the parent's care could be harmful to the child, the parent may be consulted as to whether alternative arrangements might be made. Where the issue raises a higher level of concern, the school will consider involving Social Services (Child Protection procedures) and/or the police.
- The school is primarily concerned with the welfare of the child and not with the parent's behaviour

6. Involvement of Parents

- When appropriate, parents will be involved in any action concerning drug incidents. The exception would be when the involvement of parents is considered a risk to the child.

7. Outside Agency Involvement

- Education Welfare Services/Behaviour and Education Support Team/School Nursing Team/Specialist agencies (Social Services, Family Support)