



Drug Education Policy

Introduction

We recognise the increasing drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance.

The term 'drug', throughout this document, includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

This policy document identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum and takes account of the OFSTED inspection framework 2000, National Curriculum 2000 and the LEA curriculum policy, Entitlement and Achievement. Guidance from the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (SCODA) 'The Right Approach' and 'The Right Responses' provides additional support for this policy.

Aims and Objectives

This school believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

We have prioritised the following objectives:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use/misuse
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practice the skills they need to ensure personal safety and avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their use, misuse benefits and harm.

Management and Co-ordination

The Phase leaders and Year Group leaders have responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to governors, senior managers, classroom teachers and support staff.

They will therefore ensure that:

- The Drug Education Policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is thoroughly discussed and understood
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified
- The underpinning aims and values of and attitudes towards drug education are made explicit
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school
- The equality of opportunity is promoted
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development within the field of drugs awareness and drug education
- The link is made explicit between drug education and other school policies

Staffing and Staff Development

All staff, including support staff, needs access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education curriculum and its style of delivery. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities.

Areas of staff expertise and individual staff development will be identified through existing staff development systems. This will be ascertained through staff audit, classroom observation, scrutiny of planning and performance management.

Curriculum organisation and planning

Drug education will be delivered in this school through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. This will take the form of:

- **Discrete curriculum time**

By identifying drug education within the planned curriculum for all pupils - especially science and PSHE.

- **Through and in other curriculum areas**

By identifying and planning for opportunities within other curriculum areas, especially within science, PSHE.

Within the subject of science specific activities will be designed to address drug education.

And our key resource for PSHE and Citizenship, Health for Life, also provides activities within its core and sensitive issues sections to address drug education.

- **Through activities, school events and ethos**

Through our work to educate our children regarding healthy lifestyles, activities should enable our pupils to listen and support each other, the taking of responsibility, good relationships, positive behaviour, challenging stereo-types, being aware of the language we use and enable them to understand how to access support and guidance systems that are appropriate to their age.

The responsibility of overseeing the provision of drug education is held by the Head teacher and SLT

Phase Leaders and Year Group leaders will be responsible for delivering drug education programmes and for developing **lesson plans** which will include clearly identified learning outcomes. The school will ensure **progression and continuity** in all aspects of drug education by monitoring planning and lesson observations to be carried out by the PSHE and overseen by SLT.

Curriculum Delivery

Teaching about drugs is generally best provided as part of an integrated programme of Personal, Social and Health Education across the key stages. This programme is relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible, and develops, as pupils grow older. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to talk openly and honestly.

In order to effectively cover all aspects of drug education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed.

Resources

Resources that support this area of the curriculum will be up-to date, relevant to pupils and presented in ways that are consistent with the fundamental aims of PSHE and Citizenship. Overall responsibility for drug education resources is held by the Phase Leaders. Resources supporting the drug education programme will be stored with other PSHE and Citizenship resources.

A list of current drug education resources will be kept with the policy.

In addition to existing resources, the school aims to review and update drug education resources regularly in accordance with budget allocation.

External Agencies and Services

The school values and encourages the involvement of external agencies and services in supporting the delivery of this area of the curriculum. Where outside speakers are to be involved their contribution will be properly planned as part of the overall programme. Their contribution will complement other teaching and be appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils involved. Class teachers will always be involved so they can deal with questions and concerns.

Equality of Opportunity

In accordance with school and LA policy, a commitment to Equal Opportunities will be built into all aspects of drug education. We recognise that some pupils with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviour are/are not acceptable. Where pupils are taking prescribed medication they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs. These elements will be ensured by provision for SEND/EAL pupils, resources used, explicit teaching about discrimination and stereotyping, promoting respect for others and a positive school ethos.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The assessment, recording and reporting of drug education will take place in accordance with school policy.

Understanding in drug education will be demonstrated through **assessment** against learning objectives, which will be built into curriculum planning. A variety of assessment techniques will be used, including draw and write, discussion, quizzes, scrutiny of work and pupil self- assessment, peer assessment and project assessment.

The **recording** of these assessments will take the form of *school's normal procedures*.

The **reporting** of individual achievement and progress will include skill development and values and attitudes, as well as knowledge and understanding. Progress in these areas will be reported through written reports to parents and feedback to individual pupils orally and in written form.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Provision for drug education, including the personal development of pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Senior Management and the PSHE. This will be done by checking that whole school drug education objectives are met, the standards of teaching and learning expected are achieved, there are adequate resources, the schemes of work are being taught appropriately, and continued consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. We have identified a range of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling, which reflect different kinds of drug-related offences.

In all cases the Head teacher should be informed immediately.

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

Pupil Discipline and Support

The Head teacher will be responsible for deciding how to discipline a pupil following any drug-related incidents and all factors influencing the incident will be taken into account. Our Behaviour Policy has clear sanctions for breaking school rules and a variety of sanctions are possible. Exclusion may be appropriate in rare and serious cases.

Confiscating an illegal drug and its disposal

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the pupil refuses, the Head teacher may decide to contact parents and/or the Police Schools Liaison Officer. We will always inform parents if the police are called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our pupils, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously over-react and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal and will either be destroyed by flushing down the toilet or be handed to the police as soon as possible. We will always ensure that a witness is present when disposing of any drug. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues. We will keep a written record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.

Smoking Policy

This school is bound by the Harrow Council Smoking Policy and smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds. Any disregard for school restrictions on smoking will be treated as any other breach of school discipline.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools ongoing policy review cycle

The Governing Body approved this policy in:

Review Date: