



Drugs Policy

School Policy

Adopted by the governing body on

Date 11/10/17

Signed by

Chair of Governors

Due for review on

Date Summer 2020

This policy has been reviewed by the teaching staff, governors and outside agencies.

Introduction

This drugs policy addresses and encompasses all legal and illegal drugs, including medicines, alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances. In considering our approach to drug education the school has taken account of the general requirement in the Education Reform Act 1988: It helps prepare children for “the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.” The policy is consistent with the aims of the School contained in the school prospectus and the Equal Opportunities and safeguarding policies of the School.

The school does not condone the unauthorised use or supply of any drug, including alcohol and tobacco, by all members of the School. On special occasions, alcohol may be consumed on the School premises by adults, with prior authorisation from the Head teacher.

Aim

The aim of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices about their lifestyle now and in teenage and adult life and to resist the use and misuse of drugs. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Parents are informed of our policy on use of medicines and our stance on the legal substances, e.g. no smoking on premises.

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for pupils to begin to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse both illegal and legal;
- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs
- To enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking
- To develop positive attitudes of independence, perseverance, self criticism and responsibility;
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or other people misusing drugs;
- To ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner

Context

Drug education will be provided in the broader context of the teaching at times when it fits in with the curriculum, or at times as a discreet subject.

Parents will be fully informed of the policy and it will be placed on the School website.

It will take account of the age of the pupils matched to their increasing experience and maturity.

Method and Organisation

At Newton Burgoland we regard drugs education as a whole-School issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Issues that arise outside of the classroom environment but within the School day will also be dealt with sensitively and appropriately. Children will be taught the difference between legal and illegal drugs. Drug education is predominantly covered through the School's personal, social and health education and science curriculum. The main

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teaching about drugs happens during year 5/6, where the children are made aware of some of the differences between illegal and legal drugs.

Within their lessons:

- Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future
- Children are given the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class
- Children are encouraged to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

Drugs/PSHCE Coordinators Role

The drugs/PSHCE coordinator is The Head teacher

The Role of the Head teacher

- to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy
- to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- To ensure that appropriate resources are provided within budgetary constraints.
- to liaise with external agencies regarding the School drugs education programme
- to monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.
- Work alongside colleagues as appropriate.
- Keep the focus of drug education appropriate by reporting to governors.
- Liaise with other local schools, if required.
- to lead the School in the development, coordination and review of the drugs policy/ programmes as part of the PSHCE programme, for managing drug related incidents and for monitoring and reviewing the policy every two years

The Role of the Governors

- The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Head teacher in following these guidelines.

The Role of the Parents

The School is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at Newton Burgoland through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- enable parents to view the policy by placing it on the School website;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in the School;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the School;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at the School.

Drug Education Curriculum Content

The teaching programme at **Key Stage 1** includes the following teaching and learning points, identified in the PSHCE scheme of work.

Knowledge and understanding

- School rules relating to medicines.
- Basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after the body.
- The role of medicines (both prescribed and over-the-counter) in promoting health and the reasons people use them.
- Understanding that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly.
- Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents.
- Consideration of alcohol and tobacco, their general effects on the body and on behaviour.
- People who are involved with medicines (such as health professionals, pharmacists, shopkeepers).
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns.

Skills

- Communicating feelings such as concerns about illness and taking medicines.
- Following simple safety instructions.
- When and how to get help from adults.

Attitudes

- Valuing one's body and recognising its uniqueness.
- Attitudes towards medicines, health professionals and hospitals.
- Attitudes towards the use of alcohol and cigarettes.
- Responses to media and advertising presentations of medicines, alcohol and smoking.

At **Key Stage 2** the School will implement the following programme. Some of the issues will have a much higher focus at secondary School. Visits from professionals will be built into the curriculum.

Knowledge and understanding

- School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs.
- More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to take care of it.
- Different types of medicines (both prescribed and over-the-counter), legal and illegal drugs including their form, their effects and their associated risks.
- Introduction to the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs.
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns.
- Dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.

Skills

- Identifying risks.
- Coping with peer influences.
- Communicating with adults.
- Safety procedures when using medicines.

Attitudes

- Valuing oneself and other people.
- Attitudes and beliefs about different drugs and people who may use or misuse them.
- Responses to media and advertising presentations of alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs.
- Taking responsibility for one's own safety and behaviour.

Drug education will be identified in schemes of work, medium and short term planning when appropriate. However, the drug education programme needs to be flexible, responsive and opportunist when appropriate. Teachers are aware that drug education can be a difficult issue which requires sensitive teaching matched to the particular needs and concerns of pupils in the class.

Training and Support for Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff

The PSHCE/drug coordinator will be responsible for in-service training related to drugs/PSHCE on a three yearly cycle. All new members of staff will be advised to read the drug education policy.

Drugs on the School Premises

Staff are made aware of all drugs brought into the School for medical reasons. If medical help is needed for any pupil it is provided or requested at once.

Defining a Drug Related Incident

A drug related incident has been defined within the National DfES Guidance (2004) as follows:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the School;
- A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate knowledge of drugs for their age;
- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia;
- A pupil is found to be supplying drugs on School premises;
- A pupil, parent/ carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs;
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area;
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

Procedure for Managing a Drug Related Incident

If illegal or unauthorised drugs are found or suspected at the School, or if someone on the School premises is possibly under the influence of an unknown drug there is a set procedure to be followed.

Procedure Sheet attached.

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. The updated policy will be shared with new staff, governors and parent.

Procedure

Discovery of suspected substances or drug paraphernalia in the building or grounds:

Pupils know they must not touch sharp needles, syringes, etc which they might find on the site.

Staff discovering substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation should observe the following guidance.

- a) If possible, remove the suspected substance, wearing protective gloves, in the presence of a witness. Take it immediately to the Head teacher/business manager who will inform the Police.
- b) Where it is confirmed that the substance is harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation the Head teacher will notify the parents or guardians of pupil(s) concerned and inform the Chairman of Governors.
- c) The Head teacher will confer with the appropriate agencies, as to what action should be taken.