

# DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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Reviewed by: NM

## 1. OVERVIEW

This policy is developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

- Health & Safety policy
- Behaviour policy
- Bullying policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure including Allegations against Adults ISI7a
- School policy on medicines in school
- PSHE/RSE curriculum
- Science curriculum

The policy has been developed using national and local guidance, including 'Drugs – guidance for schools' DFES 2004, NHSS guidelines, LA guidelines, schemes of work in science, the Framework for PSHE.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises
- Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the school drug education programme and management of drug related incidents
- Reflect the schools approach to health as part of the NHSS The drug policy applies to the school and playing fields including pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone else visiting the school. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips.

## 3. DEFINITION OF 'DRUGS'

This policy uses the definition that a drug is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term 'drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

## 4. STATEMENT ON DRUGS

Cameron Vale School finds it wholly unacceptable within the school premises or grounds to introduce, sell or use illegal drugs or to misuse legal drugs or substances. Appropriate steps will be taken to deal with any drug-related incidents which occur. The school has a policy on the administration of prescription medicines, when necessary, which conforms to LA guidelines. The first concern in managing drugs is the health & safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

## 5. RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF STAFF

The Headmistress is the senior member of staff responsible for all drug related issues.

## 6. DRUG EDUCATION

### 6.1 Educational Aims and Objectives

The school's drug education programme is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to take responsibility for making informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. All teaching is age appropriate. Drug education will link in with the National Healthy School Standard and the whole school ethos of promoting high self esteem and Emotional Literacy within pupils. Specific aims of the Drug Education Policy are:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.
- To foster and develop self-esteem
- To provide accurate information
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To practise the skills necessary to deal with a drug offer situation.
- To widen understanding about health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

### 6.2 Elements of the School Drugs Education Programme

The aims of imparting knowledge/understanding, skills and attitudes will be fulfilled through the teaching of the Science and PSHE/C and PE curricula and through developing the whole school ethos. The Drug Education Programme for EYF and Key Stage One, includes the following elements:

### 6.3 Knowledge & Understanding.

- The School's policy relating to medicine;
- Provide basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after the body;
- The role medicines play (both prescribed and over the counter) in promoting health and reasons people use them;
- That all drugs can be harmful if not used correctly;
- Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents;
- The general effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body and behaviour;
- People who are involved with medicines (e.g. health professionals, pharmacists, shop keepers);
- People who can help children when they have questions of concerns.

### 6.4 Skills

- Communicating feelings such as concern about illness and taking medicines;
- Following simple instructions;
- Knowing when and how to get help from adults

### 6.5 Skills

- Communicating feelings such as concern about illness and taking medicines;
- Following simple instructions;
- Knowing when and how to get help from adults

The Drug Education Programme for Key Stage 2 aims to increase and develop the key elements:

#### 6.6 Knowledge and understanding

- School policies 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;
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns;
- Dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.

#### 6.7 Skills

- Identifying risks;
- Coping with peer influences;
- Communicating with others;
- Decision making;
- Giving and getting help;
- Safety procedures when using medicines

#### 6.8 Attitudes

- Valuing oneself and other people;
- Taking responsibility for decisions and actions;
- Considering social and moral dilemmas.

### 7. MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS AT SCHOOL

If a drug-related incident occurs staff should:

- Inform Headmistress and/or responsible member of staff.
- Inform parent/carer providing this does not place child at risk. (On advice from Headmistress.)
- Legal substances can be returned to parent/carer or disposed of safely.
- If disclosure is made by/about a child or carer, advice or information should be offered. Assess whether further action is necessary e.g. is it putting the child at risk. Consider issues of confidentiality.
- Identify the needs of those involved in any incident and decide on an appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other agency. Provide pupil and carer with access to further forms of support. Provide information in school, for example if a discarded syringe were to be found children should be warned of the dangers as a matter of priority
- Seek outside support if necessary e.g. LA, school health team, child protection officer, EWO, police etc.
- In the case of illegitimate sale of legal or illegal drugs, the Headmistress will decide whether to inform the police – it is not a legal obligation to do so.
- All decisions and actions should be recorded. The outcome for pupil and school community should be monitored and the effectiveness of policy and practice assessed.
- Permanent exclusion of a pupil is seen as a last resort.
- In the extremely unlikely event of a drug related incident the following procedures should be followed: Ascertain if there is any medical emergency, and call ambulance and follow First Aid procedures if necessary. Remove drug/paraphernalia using gloves and place in a secure container. Liaise with LA on safe disposal of matter such as needles. Temporarily store drug/paraphernalia in a secure place.

### 8. POLICE INVOLVEMENT

Police should be involved in any incident involving the sale or use of illegal drugs, although there is no legal obligation to give a pupil's name. The Headmistress will make the decision on the need to involve the police. Incidents where a parent/carer is behaving under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises will be judged on the circumstances and the Headmistress will make a decision as to whether the police should be called.

## **9. THE NEEDS OF THE PUPILS**

Class teachers and others involved in the care of children (e.g. Nursery Nurses, LSA's etc) should be aware of the pastoral needs of children affected by drug-related issues. Concerns should be raised with the Headmistress, DSL, and SENCo, and appropriate support structures activated. (See section on confidentiality).

## **10. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Teachers and staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However, requests for confidentiality should be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information: it should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes, where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

## **11. INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS/CARERS**

In the event of any incident involving the misuse of any legal or illegal drug on school premises, the Headmistress will take the decision as to whether parents/carers should be informed, and how they will be involved in dealing with the incident.