

Drugs Education

As with all aspects of the school's curriculum we consider very carefully what we teach to our pupils. As a result of the lower levels of independent social interaction that many of our pupils tend to experience, it is easy to assume that access to drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco is not an issue. We cannot make such an assumption as this may not be the case, therefore, we aim to teach our pupils to understand the health risks these substances bring rather than to simply hope that they will never encounter them. It is important that our pupils develop an awareness of the health risks which arise with misuse of drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco, with suitable emphasis on the positive role that appropriate medication can play in an individual's welfare. The control and administration of medication is detailed further below.

Our policy rests on three basic stages:

- Education about drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco misuse
- Disciplinary response to the discovery of misuse of drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco
- Support given to an individual discovered to be misusing drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco

Education: Teaching our pupils about drugs, solvents, alcohol and tobacco forms part of our PSHE curriculum. Our aim is to provide pupils with opportunities to acquire accurate information that will increase their awareness of the benefits and possible harm that different substances have on an individual's health, social interaction and welfare. Associated skills such as making informed choices, resisting peer pressures and being assertive are also linked to this work as appropriate to the individual, taking into account knowledge of their cognitive abilities and level of development. Key areas relating to Drugs Education include:

- The role of drugs in medicine
- The harmful effects of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs

Disciplinary response: In the event of the discovery of misuse of drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco by a pupil, the member of staff would first ensure that the pupil is safe and then attempt to ascertain how the substance had been obtained. The member of staff would inform the Headteacher and would write a short account of the incident, with one copy for the pupil's safeguarding file and a second copy to be given to the pupil's parents or guardians. Depending on the severity of the physical effect on the pupil, medical assistance would be sought and if the incident involved a controlled drug then the police would also be contacted. In all cases the matter would be treated as confidential; parents and guardians would be informed immediately but other pupils and members of staff would only be informed of the incident as necessary.

Support: The school would make every attempt to help an individual pupil who had been discovered to be misusing drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco. The pupil's class teacher would draw up a plan to provide individual work targeted at highlighting the risks of the misuse of the substance, along with discussing with the pupil and parents/carers possible underlying problems which the school may be able to help with. If the problem warranted it, we would approach other agencies for further advice and support.

Medication: Storage of medication is under the oversight of the school health nurse. She will carry out regular checks and keep appropriate written records. Medication within the school may only be kept in the lockable cabinet in the Medical Room and other medications requiring to be kept at low

temperatures are in the lockable medical refrigerator in the Medical Room. When not in use, this room must be kept locked at all times. On no account will any medication be kept in classrooms.

Administration of Medication: The school health nurse is also responsible for coordinating, monitoring and administering medication during the school day. She will also give training on administering drugs and provide advice on possible side effects, etc.

The school's code of practice for the administration of medication is :

- No medication will be given without prior written parental instructions and consent.
- No member of staff may give any medication unless they have been given suitable training.
- Any member of staff who administers any medicines or drugs must sign the pupil's Medication Record Card. This is a very important record.

Reviewed by: Natalie Miles-Clarke

Date: February 2024

Approved by Governors:

Date: February 2024

