

Policy Statement
Netherfield Infant School

Drugs

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and other who use the school
- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, governors, students, voluntary helpers and agencies working with Netherfield Infant School. It applies during the school working day (8.30 - 4.45pm) when within school boundaries as defined by the fence around the perimeter of the school grounds. It also applies on school trips.

The term "drugs" is used in this document to refer to "a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave" UN Office on drugs and crime. This includes medicine, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

The school is committed to promoting a healthy and supportive environment. No alcohol, smoking or volatile substances are allowed on the school site. Our school does not tolerate the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

Other than an inhaler no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. Self-administered inhalers will be kept in a safe place in the child's classroom. Medicine is not normally administered by school staff. Volatile substances, such as toilet cleaners, other cleaning fluids and whiteboard cleaners are kept in a locked cupboard.

The head teacher is the designated senior member of staff who will oversee the planning and co-ordination of drug education and the management of drug incidents.

Related policies

- behaviour
- health and safety
- medicines
- confidentiality
- child protection

Drug Education

Aims

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Through a supportive school ethos and the curriculum we aim to:-

- increase awareness and understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs
- develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions
- identify sources of personal support
- keep the pupils safe

Objectives

Drug education should:

- increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about the risks, effects, impact of and laws relating to drugs.
- develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy including assessing, avoiding and managing risk, resisting pressures, communicating effectively, finding help, devising problem-solving and coping strategies, developing self-awareness and self-esteem.
- enable pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes

Scheme of work

Content

Drug education is provided through PSHE and Citizenship provision following non-statutory framework for PSHE and Citizenship. We are also working to the Meden Family of Schools scheme of work for drug education (see appendix 1). In the Foundation stage, children begin to develop an understanding of what keeps them healthy and safe. This is built upon in Key Stage 1 in addition to learning about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules. In addition, the children participate in the 'On Track' programme in Year 1 and CASE and Year 2. Pupils' existing knowledge and understanding of drugs will be determined before the respective programmes start through a 'draw and write' approach where the children respond to a story involving a drug incident. This will then have an influence on the specific content of drug education to be provided.

Methodology and Resources

Drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. A range of learning approaches will be used with an emphasis on participatory activities such as role-play, video, group work and external contributors.

Pupils have the chance to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of opportunities such as taking and sharing responsibility, feeling positive about themselves, participating, making real choices and decisions, meeting and talking with people, developing relationships, finding information and advice and preparing for change.

External providers are used to help support the delivery of drug education. Namely, C.A.S.E. and Life Lorry (see Appendix 2 for content). We also use the On Track programme of work to help develop 'life skills in a drug using world'.

Assessment and monitoring

Work achieved within PSHE and Citizenship teaching time is sampled and assessed as to how far that particular child has met the learning objectives for the topic. These findings are regularly shared at staff meetings, which enables the staff to monitor the quality and effectiveness of the provision. Having completed the On Track program, children also undertake the same 'draw and write' activity as they did before commencing the program to show new knowledge and understanding, skills they have developed and how their feelings and attitudes have been influenced during the programme.

All staff will be made aware of the drug policy and the name of the designated senior member of staff. All staff will be given the opportunity to access appropriate training.

Management of drugs at school

Immediate action will be taken to stop the following activities on the school premises:

- The use of illegal substances, tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances (including solvents) on school premises.
- The production or supply of any illegal substance or alcohol on the premises.
- The illegal supply of tobacco, volatile substances and prescription and over the counter medicines on the premises.

Managing Substance use related incidents and situations

Substance use incident: Evidence or suspicion of a specific event in the workplace involving one or more unauthorised substances and requiring immediate action by workers (examples include children and young people found intoxicated or a named person reported having sold cannabis to a friend).

Substance use situation: An event or series of events involving one or more substances, including planned events which require further careful observation, monitoring, management or referral by workers (examples include any permitted smoking by adults, management of medication pre-scribed for a child or young person, awareness of solvent sniffing, discovery of substance use paraphernalia, a child or young person disclosing parental use/misuse).

Should an incident or situation arise we will:

- Conduct a full risk assessment
- Consider confidentiality and child protection
- Discuss situation with head teacher at the earliest opportunity
- Consider parental involvement
- Consider contacting the police
- Fully record the situation using Situation/Incident Form (found in Appendix 3 and nurses book) stating any actions and follow up work.
- Consider the provision of further education, information and continued support for the child.

Discovery of illegal substances

Should illegal substances be discovered on the premises we will follow the procedure below as set out in the U&S Substance Use Policy:

- Make a check of the area to ensure there is no immediate medical emergency or danger and everyone is safe.
- Seek an appropriate adult witness
- Place the substance in a bag using gloves and secure
- Label with the detail of content and date. Sign and countersign by witness.
- Store bagged substance immediately in a safe place, namely the locked drawer in the head's office.
- Contact the police as soon as possible on non-emergency number: 0115 9670 999 unless there is a medical emergency. Describe what you have found and where it is stored. Record incident number and arrange collection procedure for substance.
- Record on Incident Form (see Appendix 3) as soon as possible - where found, date, incident number, arrangements for collection, description of substance, names of both adults, sign and countersign.

Disposal of substance use paraphernalia

The school site is checked once a week. Should substance related paraphernalia be found, it will be treated as contaminated and the following procedure adhered to.

- If the paraphernalia has to be moved immediately, staff should place it into an appropriate sharps container (found in the staff room) using gloves. As an alternative to a sharps box, a plastic bottle can be used.
- Contact the local council who will collect substance use related paraphernalia.
- Inform the police that substance use related paraphernalia has been found.
- Record on Incident/Situation form (appendix 3)

Refer to leaflet (appendix 4) for contact details

Procedures for managing parents/carers under the influence

When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises, we will attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. The focus in deciding the best course of action to take will be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent/carer's behaviour.

- If a teacher has concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer they will discuss alternative arrangements: for example asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home. The head teacher will always be involved in these situations.
- Where the behaviour of a parent/carer under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, we will consider whether to invoke child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police.

Police involvement

All incidents on school premises involving illegal drugs will be reported to the police. Police will also be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs.

Confidentiality

In dealing with a child, we will not promise total confidentiality. We will explain the position to the pupil and make them aware of this ideally before they disclose anything. If there is a request by the pupil concerned for total confidentiality this will be honoured unless this is unavoidable for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- child protection
- co-operating with a police investigation
- referral to external services

It may be necessary to invoke local child protection procedures (see child protection policy) if a pupil's safety is under threat. If information disclosed by the pupil needs to be passed on, we will endeavour to explain to the pupil concerned why this needs to happen.

Involvement of parent/carers

We will involve the child's parents/carers in any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs and explain how the school intends to respond to the incident and to the pupil's needs. However, if we suspect that doing this may put the child's safety at risk we will exercise caution and consult the child protection co-ordinator, following guidelines set out in child protection policy if necessary.

Parents will be involved in their child's drug education when the policy is reviewed, through an invitation to a parents session when the Life Lorry visits and by a letter about what has been covered during the On Track programme and CASE sessions.

The role of governors

The governors will have the opportunity to discuss and make amendments to the policy and to attend any drug education sessions in school. They will be kept informed about any developments or issues through the head teacher's report to the governors and through the Pupil, Personnel and Strategic Development Committee.