

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HIGHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**DRUGS & SUBSTANCE
MISUSE POLICY**

2020

Drug Policy - Sept 2020

Drugs Education Policy

Aims and Objectives: Highgate Primary School has developed this Drugs Education Policy 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.

Within the Drugs Education Policy we teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and we aim to equip them with social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decision in relation to drugs in society.

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'. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) 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
- Key documents which have informed this policy outline:

The main objectives of the school drug education policy are 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 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 values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

The Education Programme:

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. In teaching the curriculum, we follow the guidelines provided by the DfE.

The resources and materials we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA.

- We aim to provide children with appropriate knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.
- We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking.
- We aim to enable children to understand and discuss the moral questions related to drug taking.

- We teach children to respect their own bodies and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.
- We teach children what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs.
- We encourage children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health.
- We encourage them to listen to the views of others and we teach them to explore why drugs are such a problem in today's society.
- We endeavour to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner.

Highgate Primary School is involved in the Leicestershire Healthy Schools programme. We will inform our pupils and their parents/carers that illegal and unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the boundaries identified within this policy.

Policy Links:

The Drugs Education Policy links with other policy documents used to monitor and manage the teaching and learning at this school:

Medical Conditions Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Child Protection Policy

Health & Safety Policy

Pupil Discipline and Behaviour Management for Learning Policy

Sex & Relationships Education Policy

Special Educational Needs Policy

Key Learning Objectives:

Content for our Drugs Education Programme references the frameworks for PSHE, Citizenship and Science. We use the Cambridge PSHE Programme that includes lessons on drugs and substance abuse.

Key Stage 1 Objectives will cover the importance of rules, feeling unwell and the role of medicines, how medicines can be harmful and related safety issues, why we use medicines and who can help us.

Key Stage 2 Objectives will cover weighing up the pros and cons of taking risks, the pressures and influences on us, resisting unhelpful pressure or influences and learning about alcohol, tobacco as legal drugs and illegal drugs.

All pupils will explore the following key topic areas at different levels according to age and/or level of development:

- Healthy body
- Healthy eating
- Healthy lifestyle

- Medicines
- Positive self-image; developing self-confidence and assertiveness
- Safety issues and rules
- Feelings
- Friendships/cooperation, bullying
- Personal hygiene
- Taking responsibility for one's own safety and behaviour.

Methodology and Resources:

A wide range of teaching methods will be used including discussions, role play, case studies, drama, debates, questionnaires, structured games and other active/creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues. Circle/'R' time is also employed to give each child the opportunity to express their feelings and opinions. Year 6 pupils are given the opportunity to visit Warning Zone which tackles many of the issues documented in this policy and supports them in their transition to secondary school.

Assessment and Monitoring:

Written records of any and all incidents will be maintained by the Head Teacher and reported to the Governing Body.

Management of drugs at school:

As this is a primary school it is highly unlikely that we will have to deal with a drug related incident, however there needs to be procedures in place just in case a drug related incident occurs.

It is also highly unlikely that the police will need to become involved, however if in the unlikely event that the police are contacted this will be handled in line with the Leicestershire Constabulary Guidance for Schools doc.

This school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol nor the illegal supply of these substances. This school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. This school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in children's welfare. The Head teacher and governing body will take the final decision on any response to an incident. In making a decision the school seeks to balance as far as possible the interests of the students involved, other school members and the local community. This school seeks to work in partnership with parents and as such would inform parents at the earliest possible opportunity dependant on any possible child protection issues. The Head teacher or his/her agent will also contact the police and subsequently decide on what action is to be taken. Permanent exclusion is always seen as a last resort but action will always be taken in any case where possession is proved.

Where a student has been involved in an alcohol or drug related incident, the school will endeavour to secure appropriate care and support to the student and their family. See **Appendix A** for more detailed examples of how to deal with and handle drug related incidents on site. For guidance of 'police involvement', please see **Appendix B**.

Support for pupils and families:

Will be provided in partnership with the LA Leicestershire County Council is a partner in the DART (Drug and Alcohol Response Team) network. This is a local network of statutory and non-statutory agencies committed to providing high quality and consistent advice, support and treatment to young people and families with substance misuse problems. It is recommended that schools promote and use the services of New Direction 0116 2229559, a county and city-wide young people's service.

Control of specific substances:

Medicines Prescribed medicines will be stored and handled in line with the Medical Conditions Policy. Staff training will be undertaken as appropriate for the use of Epi pens for identified children.

Tobacco

This school has a no-smoking policy enforced on the whole site.

Alcohol

Alcohol is not consumed on school premises during school opening hours. The school offers guidance on suitable drinking products for the children with reference to any beverage that may contain stimulants like caffeine and are deemed inappropriate for young children.

Solvents

The school ensures that potentially harmful substances are stored safely and pupils are supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of correction fluid and aerosol sprays by children is prohibited. Caretaker's materials are well labelled and locked in a secure cupboard.

Illegal Substances

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and will be dealt with in line with adopted school policies.

The law

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of substances suspected of being illegal drugs for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued - provided that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the substance or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. Where a school has recovered drugs from a pupil, or suspects that a particular pupil is in possession of an illegal substance the police may be asked to attend. Where the pupil is suspected of having possession but has refused to hand it over to a member of the teaching staff, only a police officer has powers available to search under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The police officer attending will seek to obtain the reasonable grounds required for searching from information given by school staff.

The role of the Head Teacher

- It is the responsibility of the Head to ensure that staff and parents are informed about the Drugs Education Policy and that the policy is implemented effectively.
- It is the Head teacher's responsibility to ensure that all staff are given appropriate training.
- The head Teacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme.

- The head teacher will monitor the policy and report to Governors. The role of the Governors
- The Governing Body has the responsibility of drawing up the guidelines for drug education policy.
- The Governors will support the Head teacher in enforcing the policy.
- Governors will inform and consult with parents in adopting the policy.
- Governors will liaise with LA and Health organisations to ensure that the school policy is in line with best advice available.

The role of the Parents

- The primary role in any Drugs Education Programme must be played by the child's parents/carers.
- The school will build a positive and supporting relationship with parents to the benefit of the children.
- Parents will be informed of the Drugs Education Policy and teaching programme.
- Any issue raised will be taken seriously by the school.

Confidentiality:

The schools will ensure that sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupil's and families rights and needs. Staff will always endeavour to reassure any child that seeks help for a particular problem or situation recognising that it may well have taken significant courage on the child's part to disclose and information and that the child may be experiencing conflicting emotions. The school will remember the pastoral responsibility of the education service as a whole. A team of designated safeguarding leaders are responsible for all child protection issues; at Highgate Primary School this is Mr Jenkinson, Mrs O'Leary and Mr Hodder.

Appendix A EXAMPLE SCENARIOS FOR ON SITE DRUG INCIDENTS (Guidance taken from DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools, 2012)

Parents / carers under the influence of drugs on school premises

When dealing with parents under the influence staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil to the parent / carer. In such instances, schools might wish to discuss with the parent / carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example asking another parent / carer to accompany the child home. The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent's / carer's behaviour. Where the behaviour of the parent/ carer under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedures.

Confiscation and disposal of unauthorised drugs

The presence of a second adult witness is advisable.

Alcohol and tobacco

Parents / carers should normally be informed and given the opportunity to collect alcohol or tobacco unless this would jeopardise the safety of the child.

Volatile substances

Given the danger levels schools may arrange for their safe disposal. Small amounts may be placed in a bin for which pupils do not have access, for example a bin within a locked cupboard.

Medicines

Disposal of medicines held at school should be covered in the schools medicines policy. Drugs or paraphernalia, needles or syringes found on school premises should be placed in a sturdy, secure container using gloves. Soft drink cans or plastic bottles should not be used. Used needles or syringes should not be disposed of in domestic waste.

Disclosure (e.g. of pupil's own drug use or parent /carers drug use)

Offer further information and advice. Consider whether drug use could be problematic or indicate other problems requiring further action. Consider issues of confidentiality and explain these issues to the pupils/ parents involved. Inform head teacher or designated member of staff who will begin further investigation. Pupils in possession of an unauthorised drug Remove drug / paraphernalia, temporarily store the drug securely, record the details with a witness present and inform the head teacher or designated member of staff.

Written by T. Jenkinson

Oct 2017, reviewed Sept 2020

To be reviewed Sept 2022

Appendix B Guidance for schools: Drugs – Involving the Police – Referencing DfE & ACPO “Drug Advice for Schools (September 2012).

The misuse of drugs in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is a growing issue for all areas, from the larger urban centres to the most rural communities. Misuse of drugs is often associated with levels

of poverty, deprivation and crime. While there is some correlation, the growth in drug misuse is such that it affects all our communities irrespective of social disadvantage or privilege and new ways of tackling substance misuse issues have to be found. Whilst schools should have an effective education programme and policy and procedures for dealing internally with drugs related incidents, there are occasions when circumstances arise which cause schools to involve the police.

Police drug operations within schools are an emotive subject that requires careful planning and clarity of search powers. Recent publicity about the use of "sniffer" dogs has caused further questions as to the legality of certain actions. It has been decided therefore to provide head teachers with this specific advice and guidance on what to expect if the decision is taken to contact the Leicestershire Constabulary. DfE & ACPO "Drug Advice for Schools" (Sept 2012).

This is a comprehensive document which outlines how to deal with substance misuse incidents, what should be included in a schools drug policy, and who should be involved in the consultation, dissemination and evaluation of the policy.

Police Involvement

Schools have no legal obligation to report an incident involving illegal drugs to the police. Nevertheless, not informing the police may prove to be counter-productive for the school and wider community. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of substances suspected of illegal drugs for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued - provided that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the substance or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. Cannabis has been re-classified as a Class C drug. As such it remains an illegal substance. Small quantities of this substance coming into the possession of staff may be disposed of independently but with a second member of staff present and the incident being recorded.

The following are the most common Class A & B drugs and substances found should be retained for disposal by the police: heroin; ecstasy; LSD; cocaine; crack cocaine and amphetamines. When suspected illegal substances are handed over to the police, there is no obligation to identify the person from whom they were taken. However, the police will expect to be given any information that may assist in identifying those dealing in drugs. Schools should be aware that once a police officer (as opposed to a member of school staff) finds illegal drugs on a pupil, the school's discretion as to what action to take no longer exists.

Where a school has recovered drugs from a pupil, or suspects that a particular pupil is in possession of an illegal substance the police may be asked to attend. Where the pupil is suspected of having possession but has refused to hand it over to a member of the teaching staff, only a police officer has powers available to search under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The police officer attending will seek to obtain the reasonable grounds required for searching from information given by school staff.

Schools may have cause to suspect that illegal drugs are in wider circulation in or around the school. If the decision is taken to involve the police in seeking a resolution, initial contact must be with the Local Policing Unit (LPU) Inspector. This can be done by calling 0116 222222 and asking for the LPU Commander for your area. Joint discussions about the perceived problem need to take place before a decision is made as to whether/what type of police action is required. From a police perspective, any operation will only be based upon recent and credible intelligence. Head teachers are not empowered to authorise the police to conduct general searches of pupils or their personal property.

If Police are invited to become involved in dealing with suspected illegal drug possession, the school should have procedures in place of how to deal with the aftermath of such operations.