

Fiddlers Lane

Community Primary School

Drugs Education Policy

Approved by	
Name: Jayne Tighe Chair of Governors Signature:	Date: 04 July 2018
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Fiddlers Lane Community Primary School Drugs Education Policy

Moral and Values Framework

The definition of a drug, given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.”

As a school we believe that 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.

It is very important that as a school we partner with parent/carers and relevant agencies so that not only is drug education taught, but pastoral support given so that vulnerable children may be identified and, if appropriate, referred through to another service. The Drugs Guidance for Schools (Feb. 2004) says:

“Schools play a central role in providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs is a concern receive appropriate support”

Schemes of Work

It is important that the curriculum delivered to pupils reflects a balance of knowledge, skills and attitudes that is appropriate to their current understanding about Drugs. Therefore, although all drugs are included in the programme, it is vital to assess pupils' knowledge prior to the drug education to ensure the content is appropriate/relevant to their needs. The drug education programme is delivered throughout all the key stages, and starts in the Foundation Stage with developing understanding/awareness of medicines and safety with medicines (using the “Development Matters” Curriculum in Nursery which builds towards the ELGs in Reception, with a particular focus on the “Physical Development” area of learning). The main schemes of work used to deliver the programme are:

Key Stage 1 & 2 use SCARF The National Curriculum 2014 – this links the drugs programme to Science and RE.

A sample of the activities can be seen below.

Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R Lead lesson 5 with related activities and enhancements: Hold on Harold!• Y2 Harold's picnic HW11. That household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly• Y3 Alcohol and cigarettes: the facts• Y3 Help or harm? HW17. Which, why and how, commonly available substances and drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) could damage their immediate and future health and safety, that some are legal, some are restricted and some are illegal to own, use and supply to others
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- **Y3 [Poorly Harold](#)** HW12. That bacteria and viruses can affect health and that following simple routines can reduce their spread
- **Y4 [Tell Mark II](#)**
- **Y4 [Medicines: check the label](#)** HW17.
- **Y5 ['Thunking' about habits](#)** HW16. What is meant by the term 'habit' and why habits can be hard to change
- **Y5 [Smoking: what is normal?](#)** HW13. That pressure to behave in an unacceptable, unhealthy or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know and the media
- **Y5 [Getting fit](#)** HW1. That positively and negatively affects their physical, mental and emotional health (including the media)
- **Y5 [Drugs: true or false?](#)** HW 17
- **Y6 [Joe's story \(part 1\)](#)** HW7. To recognise that they may experience conflicting emotions and when they might need to listen to their emotions or overcome them
- **Y6 [Alcohol: what is normal?](#)** HW 13
- **Y6 [Drugs: it's the law!](#)** HW17
- **Y6 [Rat Park](#)** Hw16
- **Y6 [What sort of drug is...?](#)** HW71

The Organisation of Drug Education

The Coordinator for drug education is Carol Dickson. All teachers in the school are responsible for teaching it. The programme will be delivered both through other subjects and as a discrete subject. The teaching methods used are:

- SCARF PHSE lessons
- Circle times- involving discussion/role-play
- Use of outside agencies such as the "Life Education Unit", "Crucial Crew"
- Use of resource books/programs on IWB

Specific Issues Statements

- The Drug Education Policy will be available in the school office for parents/carers and Governors to view.
- Outside agencies/visitors will be made aware of the school's policy and evaluated for their suitability through an informal planning meeting.
- The Drug Education policy is linked to other school policies.
- Confidentiality is a key element in the drugs education programme.

- Inclusion is very important- there is access in the programme for all pupils including bilingual pupils, males and females, all social origins and SEN pupils.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

Definition of a Drug Related Incident

The school recognises that a drug related incident may be identified through the following criteria:

- Incident occurring off school premises
- Possession or use off the premises
- Drugs and/or equipment found on school premises
- A pupil is found (or suspected of being) in possession of a drug on a school premises
- A member of staff knows or suspects a pupil is under the influence of a drug on school premises
- A pupil discloses own involvement with drugs
- The school has concerns about a pupil's welfare as a result of another person's drug use e.g. parent/carer/peers
- Parent seeks advice from school about possible drug use by a pupil
- The school becomes aware of the availability of sale of drugs within the school or local community

The school is aware of the possible risk from drug paraphernalia being discarded on the premises and will take appropriate actions to ensure the overall safety of the site. Any equipment found will be disposed of in line with the school health and safety procedures.

The school acknowledges that each drug related incident will be treated individually and recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary to deal with the incident.

The school is committed to the health and well-being of all its pupils and will endeavour to help any individual work through his/her difficulties.. In keeping with this, permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort.

Responses to a Drug Related Incident

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors to ensure that **ALL** school staff, governors, have had the opportunity to contribute to and understand the school drug policy, and the procedures for dealing with an incident.

In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs, the school will involve the child's parents/carers; unless this would jeopardise the pupil's safety. (Taken from "Drugs Guidance for Schools" Feb 2004)

Recording and Reporting

A record of any drug related incident is reported to the Local Authority. The Governing Body is updated termly.

Confidentiality

It is important that any action taken is in the best interests of the pupils concerned, the whole school and the wider community.

There may be occasions where, although not legally obliged to do so, the school will feel it appropriate to inform parents and/or police.

The school has a statutory responsibility to breach confidentiality:

- Where there is a child protection issue
- Where the life of a person is at risk

Health and Safety

Where the health and safety of pupils are at immediate risk through intoxication or collapse, the school will act in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy and Practice.

Any substance found in the vicinity of the incident and any information offered by friends or peers regarding the incident should be given to paramedics on their arrival

Pastoral Care and Support for Pupils at risk

The school will seek to provide all pupils with support and guidance through the pastoral system. Where pupils are identified as being at risk, every effort will be made to ensure that they receive the appropriate balance of support and guidance, to enable them and

There are a range of specialist agencies, which can provide support for both individuals and for their families. See attached contact numbers for local support agencies relating to drugs.

A list of these agencies, with contact addresses and telephone numbers, will be displayed.

Involvement of Parents/Carers

The school understands the vital importance of working in partnership and sharing the responsibility of education with parents/carers. This is achieved by keeping them informed and involved at all times.

Effective communication with parents/carers is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Police Involvement

School reserves the right, where appropriate, to contact the police in relation to any incident involving drugs.

There is no legal obligation on the school to inform the police of incidents, although it should be recognized that they might be able to provide relevant support and advice.

Parents/carers should be contacted where there is police involvement.

Dealing with Rumour and Hearsay

The school will deal responsibly with any information received through rumour and hearsay.

A record will be kept of any incident and placed on a Child Protection logging sheet.

Dealing with the Media

The Headteacher will be the point of contact in dealing with the media. A statement will be made that includes the fact that:

- The school does not condone any type of drug misuse.
- The school has the appropriate policies to support this.

The Local Authority Press Officer can provide advice and support when dealing with the Media.

Possession and Disposal

Where a substance is found or confiscated on the premises, the Headteacher will be informed immediately and prompt action taken to ensure disposal.

Disposal is achieved by:

- Disposing the substance in the presence of a witness and recording the action taken.
- Handing the substance to the police for disposal. Where possible the police will be contacted to come and collect the substance. If this is not possible, then a member of staff will take the substance to the police station by the most direct route. **Under no obligation should the substance be left in the possession of a member of staff/on the school premises.**

The school will record the specific action taken, on the Drug Related Incident Form.

When a substance has been confirmed an illegal drug, it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to notify the parents/carers concerned and to initiate any further investigation/action, including the Chair of Governors.

Discipline and Sanctions

The boundaries of acceptable behaviour are clearly defined in the School Behaviour Policy.

Discipline for drug related incidents will be dealt with individually and within the existing discipline framework of the school. In applying sanctions the school will balance the interests of the pupil(s) involved and the wellbeing of the whole school.

The DFES strongly recommends that permanent exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug related issue. Consideration must first be given to the circumstances, context and possible consequences on a case-by-case basis.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every 3 years and the outcome of the evaluation will be shared with the Governing Body.