



Silverhill Primary School

Policy for Drug Education and Related Incidents

Policy No. C5

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

Silverhill Primary School is committed to investing in our pupil's health and well being and by doing this we assist the process of raising the pupil's achievements. Our school uses the term ' drug' to include alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.

The school policy provides a clear picture of our approach to drug education and the management of drug-related incidents and support for pupils who have difficulties. It provides a secure framework within which school staff can work. We will ensure a balanced approach and promote healthy lifestyles. This will be delivered within the context of PSHE / Citizenship and the schools equal opportunities policy. The policy takes full account of the Dfee guidance. 'Drugs: Guidance for schools' (2004).

AIMS

'Drug Education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating to their own and others actions. Dfes 'Drugs: Guidance for schools.' 2004.

The overall aims of the drug education programme are to:

- Develop a range of skills to enable children to make their own, informed decisions about drugs.
- Develop rules for, and ways of, keeping them safe.
- Increase knowledge and understanding about legal / illegal drugs and how these relate to personal health.
- Be part of a whole school approach via a spiral and integrated PSHE curriculum.
- Help pupils identify effective and trustworthy sources of help and support.
- To understand risks and the consequences associated.
- Develop self-confidence and assertiveness.
- To explore a range of views, clarify attitudes and challenge stereotypes.

THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

Drugs education is an entitlement for every pupil. It is delivered in each school year in the manner appropriate to the age and development of children through the PSHE / Citizenship programme, Science, Circle time and other subject areas when and where appropriate. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community.

TEACHING METHODS

Drug education shares the features of well-taught lessons in any subject area. It builds on what learners already know; develops understanding through enquiry and problem solving; makes learning enjoyable and challenging and makes children partners in their own learning. Drug education at Silverhill Primary is delivered in an interactive, thought provoking and interesting manner using a variety of active teaching methods and approaches.

Drug education is taught in a caring and safe environment where children's genuine questions and concerns can be sensitively addressed. Ground rules that are set cover issues such as teachers' and pupils' right to privacy and respect, and the boundaries of discussion. Pupils and teachers are discouraged from revealing any personal information. Distancing techniques using third person case studies, role-play and depersonalised discussions and anonymous question boxes are strategies used by staff.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Other than the legitimate use of medicines it is against the school rules for children to bring any other drugs onto the school site. A drug related incident at this school is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine or use of tobacco and alcohol by children. Sometimes it might involve drug related incidents with parents.

The school believes it is in the best interests of all concerned to inform parents / carers of any reported drug related incidents. The exception would be where the school believes the child would be at serious risk from the parent / carer. As in all circumstances where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect the Child Protection Procedures will be applied or a referral to the Social Services Department for a Child in Need Assessment if the school feels it doesn't constitute a child protection investigation.

The school will take full account of the circumstances when considering the role and involvement of the police. However if illegal drugs are found on the school premises the local police will be informed immediately.

DISPOSAL OF INJECTING EQUIPMENT

Injecting equipment such as needles, syringes, spoons or filters may carry blood borne viruses and need to be handled with extreme caution.

If staff find discarded injecting equipment they will follow the following procedure:

- Avoid handling the syringe wherever possible. Where possible sweep up the equipment onto a dustpan or piece of card. If staff have to pick up the syringe avoid the needle and handle by the barrel. Hold it so the needle points away from the body.
- Place any paraphernalia into a sharps container or rigid container to be clearly labelled. Such as a screw top jar or a drinks can.
- If staff should sustain accidental injury from such an implement, seek medical attention immediately and complete an accident report.

PARENT / CARER INVOLVEMENT

We value the important role parents / carers play within our school community and are committed to ensuring they:

- Are consulted and informed about the drug education programme via the prospectus.
- Have the opportunity to attend a drug awareness session.

GOVERNOR INVOLVEMENT

Our school has a named governor responsible for drugs education. All governors are consulted about the drug education provision and policy and are kept up to date at Governor's meetings.

ADMINISTRATION AND STORAGE OF MEDICINES

All members of staff at Silverhill Primary School are committed to ensuring the health and well being of our pupils. Prescribed medication will only be administered with a written request from parents / carers. Non- prescribed medication will not be administered. All prescribed medication is stored in the refrigerator or secure cupboard in the school office.

ROLE OF TEACHING STAFF

The school supports all teaching and supporting staff in accessing drug related training. Training will also be provided in house via staff meetings, INSET, parents meetings and governors meetings. We believe that access to good quality training and information helps build teachers confidence in delivering drugs education. The school also has a drug education co-ordinator who:

1. Is responsible for leading and managing an effective drugs education programme throughout the whole school.
2. Updates resources and information.
3. Maps existing provision
4. Keeps up to date with the latest developments.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Inputs from outside agencies are jointly planned with those concerned ensuring a consistent approach with the school ethos. We also ensure their delivery and messages match with our standards of good practice.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil welfare seriously. Staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring and sensitive pastoral support for pupils in a number of ways. Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice. Where appropriate, pupils are referred to the school nurse and/or outside helping agencies.

School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures are made.

MONITORING AND REVIEWING

Drug education is reviewed and evaluated as part of school practice by the staff and the children to ascertain what has been learnt and to establish how future work may become more effective. It is reviewed annually.