

Downview School Drugs Education Policy Reviewed April 2014

This policy was developed through a process of consultation with the teaching staff including First Aiders and the governors.

It was firstly approved by the governing body. It was initially agreed with parents through the School Development Forum.

The senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all drugs issues within school is James Martin, Deputy Head.

Aims for Drug Education

'Drugs' refers to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

Our school aims to:

- Increase awareness through correct information
- Enable children to make informed decisions
- Recognise choices and consequences of actions
- To prepare for present and future experiences

Objectives of Drug Education

Our main aim is to allow the children to make informed choices.

The following objectives use the guidance given in the National Curriculum.

Key Stage 1

Knowledge and Understanding

Children should:

- Know all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- Know all drugs can be harmful if not used properly
- Know about different types of medicines and that some people need them to live a normal life i.e.; Diabetics
- Know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances.
- Know that cigarettes and alcohol have drugs in them and can be harmful to health

Skills

Children should:

- Be able to decide what to do when things go wrong and when to seek help
- Participate in decision making in the classroom
- Cooperate with others in work and play
- Consider personal safety, recognise potential risks, and practice ways of keeping safe
- Discuss feelings and emotions with appropriate vocabulary
- Develop strategies for coping with difficult situations including threatening behaviour and making mistakes
- Begin to develop skills in negotiation and communication

Attitudes and values

Children should:

- Value their own contribution and others
- Demonstrate an awareness of roles and relationships through role play such as health professionals
- Recognise their behaviour affects others
- Show empathy for others
- Take responsibility for their own safety

Key Stage 2

Knowledge and Understanding

Children should:

- Understand school rules regarding safety, medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs
- Have a detailed understanding of their body, the effects alcohol and tobacco may have on it, and how to stay healthy
- Know which commonly available drugs are legal and illegal and their associated risks
- Know pressure to behave in a risky way can come from a variety of sources and who to turn to for help

Skills

Children should:

- Be able to identify risks
- Develop coping strategies for resisting peer pressure
- Have opportunities to communicate with adults
- Develop abilities in decision making and assertiveness in a variety of situations
- Know how to give and get help
- Understand safety procedures when using medicines

Attitudes and values

Children should:

- Value themselves and others as individuals
- Have the opportunity to explore their attitudes and beliefs about different drugs and the people who may or may not use them
- Consider their response to media and advertising presentations of alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs
- Take responsibility for their own safety and behaviour

We aim to cover these objectives throughout the Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum.

Organisation

Drug Education is organised as part of the cross curricular programme. It can be found within subjects such as Science, PSHCE and PE and should not be separated.

It can also be taught through planned learning opportunities such as assemblies, circle time and visitors to the school. It may also be necessary to use a responsive approach if and when an incident arises.

Teaching methods used

The teaching strategies used will enable the children to develop and practice their skills of negotiation, decision making, assertion, problem solving and collaboration. The children will be given opportunities to explore and develop their own attitudes and values through discussion and roleplay.

Everyone at Downview School creates an atmosphere in which the children:

- Feel comfortable and trusted
- Feel able to contribute
- Can express and discuss their feelings
- Feel supported
- Supports each other

Storage and administration of legally available substances at school

As an academy we continue to follow the West Sussex policy on medicines in school (See appendix 1).

The children's inhalers, epipens and medicines that need to be refrigerated are stored in the First Aid room and administered according to parental written instruction. The staff are responsible for their own medication e.g. paracetamol and must store them safely out of reach of children.

Tobacco- The school has a no smoking policy anywhere on the premises.

Alcohol- All alcohol in school is kept in the staffroom or in the office out of reach of children.

Solvents- The use of legally used solvents such as glues, aerosols and pens is carefully monitored.

Educational Visits and Residentials

Any medication required by children on school trips will be carried by the appointed First Aider and administered as required.

Responding to Drug Related Incidents

Any incidents involving drugs requires a sensitive and measured response. The main principles in such a response are to:

- Establish and be clear about the nature of the incident
- Involve parents/carers, police and other agencies if this is appropriate
- Provide the child with the appropriate support they need

Above all, it is important not to panic. If the media become involved, keep all statements short, cover only the key facts and state that the incidents are being dealt with.