

TWEEDDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR

DRUGS EDUCATION & MISUSE

Review of the Policy

This policy provides guidance on teaching and learning at Tweeddale Primary School. It reflects the views of teaching staff and was agreed by the Local Governing Body on 13th March 2018.

The policy will be reviewed by the Head Teacher annually and by the governing body in **January 2021** or earlier if required. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the staff and will be monitored by the Head Teacher, Senior Management and individual curriculum coordinators.

Signed.....
Headteacher

Date.....

Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date.....

The definition of drugs in relation to this document is any substance both legal and illegal that can affect the way the mind and body works e.g. tobacco, alcohol, medicines, solvents and illegal substances.

Drugs Education

Aims of Drugs Education

Drug Education is part of a planned PSHE and Citizenship curriculum, and contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils at the school.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of the whole school community and through the ethos of the school encourages pupils, staff and parents to seek support.

At Tweeddale our aim is to provide all pupils with drug education appropriate to their needs. We intend to provide children with the knowledge and awareness needed to make informed judgements. We will develop children's skills to enable them to make healthy decisions about their behaviour and to equip them with the knowledge and skill to make informed and responsible choices in their future lives.

Objectives of the Drug Education Programme:

- to provide an environment where young people feel comfortable to discuss drug related issues;
- to give accurate and current information about substance abuse;
- to enable pupils to discuss and challenge attitudes to the misuse of drugs;
- to inform pupils, parents or other members of the school community that there are support services to help those affected by the misuse of drugs;
- to enable pupils to discuss the role of medicines in maintaining health and well being;
- to enable pupils to understand that their actions have consequences for themselves and others;

Knowledge which is to be achieved in Drugs Education

In Early Years and Years 1 and 2 children learn

- about medicines and the need to use them properly under the supervision of an adult.
- that medicines and poisons must be stored out of reach of children.
- how to contact emergency services if there is an accident in the home.

In Years 3 and 4 children learn:-

- about legal drugs – how they affect the body and how they can be helpful and harmful
- examine in detail the variety of medicines that might be found in the home and responsible use
- examine the effects of tobacco on the body and ways to avoid passive smoking

In Years 5 and 6 children

- consolidate and extend the learning programs of Years 1 to 4
- learn about the effects of alcohol in the body
- discuss both legal and illegal drugs. For example, it is illegal to sell alcohol and cigarettes to people under the age of 18

Attitudes which are to be achieved in Drug Education:

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills that may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

Organisation and planning

Drugs education is taught through other subjects such as PSHE and Science and therefore the relevant policies should be read in conjunction with this policy. Planning will follow the curriculum overviews for PSHE and Science and/or the advice given by the LEA or police education officers.

Incidents of drugs on site

Tweeddale has a no tolerance policy on the misuse or the illegal supply of drugs. Where incidents of drug misuse or supply on site are reported, the relevant authorities will be informed.

We are committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Managing Drug Related Incidents on site

“On site” is taken to mean on school premises, Children centre and Play Centre including buildings and grounds. This policy also applies to off-site school activities, visits and school trips. The policy will also relate to staff, parents’ and pupils’ and all users of the premises and grounds beyond the

Hearsay

Drug use is often discovered through hearsay. This should be passed onto the Headteacher who will make a decision about whether to record the matter of hearsay evidence. This will enable a record to be compiled of concerns and, where necessary, help and support to be offered to the member of staff, parent or pupil.

Suspicious Behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with the misuse of drugs should also be passed to the Head Teacher and logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

A member of staff may search a pupil’s belongings where he or she has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs. Where pupils are suspected of concealing drugs on their person, every effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances, for example by asking them to turn out their pockets.

If behaviour associated with drug misuse is connected with a member of staff the Head Teacher should be informed and advice sought from Governors and the **Local Education Authority**.

If behaviour associated with drug misuse is connected with a child’s parent/carer, the Headteacher will use her discretion to decide whether and with whom to share the information, always keeping the best interests of the child at the forefront. Any such decisions will be in line with the Child Protection policy.

Finding Substances

If a harmful or illegal substance is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed.

If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- the date and time of the find or retrieval;
- the size and appearance of the substance;
- the names of those concerned;
- the action taken.

If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered the Head Teacher and Site Manager should be informed and items should be handled with care. The incident should be recorded and in the case of items such as needles and syringes they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person/authority. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil’s parents should be informed.

If illegal substances or equipment associated with drug misuse are found in the possession of a member of staff, the Head Teacher should be informed and advice sought from Governors and the **Local Authority**.

If illegal substances or equipment associated with drug misuse is found in the possession of a parent/carer, the Headteacher will use her discretion to decide whether and with whom to share the information, always keeping the best interests of the child at the forefront. Any such decisions will be in line with the Child Protection policy.

Disclosure of Substance Misuse and Confidentiality

Where a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he or she is misusing substances, the staff member must make it clear to the pupil that he or she must pass the information on to the Headteacher or, in her absence, another senior member of staff. However, information must only be shared on a need to know basis. The Head Teacher must be informed immediately. A record should be kept by the Head Teacher, (and/or other designated protection person), of the staff-pupil discussion. The Head Teacher will use her discretion about who to inform and when. Those informed may be Social Services (child protection), the parents/carers, or the police. (See Confidentiality and Child Protection policies).

Where a parent discloses to a member of staff that he or she is misusing substances, the staff member must make it clear to the parents that he or she must pass the information on to the Headteacher or, in her absence, another senior member of staff. However, information must only be shared on a need to know basis. The Head Teacher will use her discretion about who to inform and when. Those informed may be Social Services (child protection), the parents/carers, or the police. (See Confidentiality and Child Protection policies).

Where a member of staff discloses to another member of staff that he or she is misusing substances, every effort should be made to get them to speak directly with the Headteacher and to obtain support. If the member of staff's behaviour prevents them from doing their job or puts children at risk, then the Headteacher must be informed immediately.

Where issues arise or advice is required when the Headteacher is not available, the deputy Headteacher, other members of the senior leadership team or Chair of Governors should be notified. In the instance of the Headteacher or a member of the Senior leadership team being the involved Chair of Governors is to be notified.

Use of Visitors

It is recognised that at some time it may be appropriate to bring in the support of outside agencies. Visits must be planned as part of the whole programme; the tone and content should match the age and maturity of the children involved.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the staff and will be monitored by the coordinator and the Headteacher. The coordinator monitors Drug Education through collecting planning and evaluation sheets completed by year groups. SMT will monitor the planning and teaching of Drug education through their rolling programme of monitoring and evaluation.

Equal opportunities and SEN

Activities are planned to reflect the differing abilities of pupils. In our planning we take into account the difference in the learning experiences and abilities of our children. Activities within the topic are selected so that children can make progress, and they are differentiated appropriately. This policy should be run in conjunction with the Equal Opportunities policy.

Race Equality

We will promote race equality through promoting positive images and by challenging stereotypical images in relation to drug education.

USEFUL CONTACTS

www.devon.gov.uk/dcs/perseduc/index.html

National Drugs Helpline

0800 776600

Drugscope

www.drugscope.org.uk

Alcohol Concern

www.alcoholconcern.org.uk