

GREAT CHART PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2024



A Great Place to Discover and Learn

Vision Statement

A respectful community where we thrive and achieve our full potential as confident life long learners

Mission Statement

Preparing for life in our ever changing world, by providing opportunities to develop core values and a love of learning

Our core value is Respect

Our termly values: Team work, Ambition, Responsibility, Resilience, Kindness & Independence

Rationale

Drugs Education is an important element of the curriculum. Substance and drug misuse extend across socio-economic and ethnic boundaries, and pupils of all abilities are potentially at risk. The National Curriculum and the broader curriculum (SMSC/ PHSE) should ensure that by the time pupils leave Primary School they know the risks and have the knowledge and skills to resist substance and drug misuse.

Aims

- to help pupils live a healthy lifestyle now and in the future
- to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices

Objectives

- to provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of substance and drugs misuse
- to develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to avoid peer group pressures
- to minimize those who are misusing substances, or who have concerns to be able to ask for help
- to enhance pupils' decision making skills
- to build pupils' decision making skills
- to build pupils' self esteem
- to enhance later parenting skills.

Principles of Teaching and Learning

There are two aspects to drug education.

Knowledge:

- the role of drugs as medicines
- that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

Life Skills:

- develop the skills of independent thinking
- develop attitudes towards drugs which are based upon facts
- build self esteem
- learn to be a decision maker
- take responsibility
- become assertive
- deal with peer group pressure

Organisation of Teaching and Learning

Drugs education takes place as part of the Science curriculum in KS1 and KS2 and through PHSE and SMSC. Any changes to this will be discussed with the headteacher before implementation.

Teaching is undertaken by the class teachers and in some cases by outside agencies such as the Police Liaison Officer. Where external visitors are used to support learning in school it is always under the direct supervision of the class teacher. A variety of teaching strategies, including group and whole class activities, Circle time, discussion and drama are used to ensure a broad and balanced approach to the teaching of knowledge and skills.

At Key Stage 1 (including Foundation Stage) Pupils will be taught:

- About the role of drugs as medicines
- How to make simple choices which improve their health and well being
- That all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- Rules for, and ways of, keeping safe, including information about people who can help them to stay safe

At Key Stage 2 Pupils will be taught:

- About the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal healthy
- How to make informed choices
- Which commonly available drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks
- That pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources including people they know, and how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.

Differentiation

Whilst some pupils may have some knowledge and insight into the world of drugs there are those that will have no knowledge at all. Lessons will be planned to take account of pupils' age, experience and maturity. Issues will be tackled with sensitivity.

The needs of pupils with SEND will be addressed by the provision of additional support, different activities or resources where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

As in all other areas of the curriculum the school's Equal Opportunities Policy will apply to Drugs Education. The school will make every effort to respect and reflect pupils' religious beliefs and cultural traditions and will take community views into account when teaching drugs education. Parents are always welcome to discuss these issues with staff.

Managing a Drugs Related Incident- see Emergency Action Folder (H&S Leader)

If a pupil is found with a substance or a drug which is thought to be illegal, the following procedure will be adopted, as advised to all staff :

Procedure

All unknown tablets, powders and substances should be regarded as possibly illegal. All teachers have a duty of care, and want to protect the child. It should be noted that the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act allows adults to remove unknown substances or drugs from a child, in order that he/she can be protected. The substances or drug should then be handed to the Headteacher who is responsible for disposing of it in an appropriate way. This will involve the police if the substance is believed to be illegal.

Where possible the drug should be removed from the child in the presence of a witness. Adults will ensure that care will be taken, particularly with young children not to alarm the child who may be unaware of the potential danger to themselves or others.

The Headteacher would be immediately informed.

If a pupil has taken a drug, or there is reasonable evidence to assume so, the child's immediate medical needs will take priority. A trained first-aider will be called immediately, and professional medical help will be sought. The Headteacher will then be informed. The pupil's parents would be contacted immediately after medical help has been summoned.

The member of staff would then write a brief assessment, indicating the time, place and the circumstances in which the incident took place. The witness should counter-sign the statement. The substance or drug should be sealed in a clear plastic bag and locked away until the emergency services arrive. School will also contact the police who will give appropriate advice or attend the school. If the substance or drug is required by an attending ambulance it will be handed to medical staff, otherwise the substance or drug will be handed to the Police Officer as evidence and for disposal.

If it is established that the incident is drugs related, the headteacher will contact the chairman of governors to inform him/her of the situation. Contact will also be made with the LA, and the KCC press office if it looks as though the media may become involved.

If necessary we will also undertake a search of desks, drawers and other school property where pupils are able to keep books, pencils and other possessions.

If further search is required pupils' privacy will be respected and the pupils about which there is concern would be asked to empty their pockets and bags. Most pupils will comply with such a request. However, where a pupil is unco-operative and the police will be informed.

At all times Safeguarding procedures will be adhered to by school staff.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.