



## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY 2019**

The next review date of this Policy is: **March 2020**

### **1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1.1** In this policy substance includes illegal drugs, medicines, solvents, alcohol and tobacco.
- 1.2** We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our substance abuse programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by substance abuse, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions.
- 1.3** The objectives of our substance abuse programme are in line with the principles of Every Child Matters:
  - to provide children with knowledge and information about substances and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
  - to enable children to discuss moral questions related to substance abuse, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas
  - to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
  - to let children know what they should do if they come across substances, or are aware of other people misusing substances;
  - to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in substance abuse;
  - to show that taking illegal substances is a moral issue, and that choices about substances are moral choices;
  - to ensure that all children are taught about substances in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.
  - aware of need to follow prescriptions carefully (see School Medicine Policy)

### **2 GUIDANCE**

Should a child present for school under the influences of substances, the child protection leader (John Clark) should be immediately informed. The child must be supervised and kept safe whilst the Social Services Intake Team are immediately informed. A written account of the incident must be completed as soon as possible

### **3 ORGANISATION**

- 3.1** We regard substance education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about substances sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of substances. For example, if a child raises

the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

**3.2** Substance education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the LEA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority, Primary Care Trust including visits from outside agencies. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LEA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

**3.3** The children's class teacher teaches them substance abuse education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of substance misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take substances, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why substances are such a problem for society.

#### **4 THE ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER**

**4.1** It is the responsibility of the head Teacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this substance abuse policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

**4.2** The subject leader will liaise with external agencies regarding the school substance abuse education programme and the head teacher will ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework, and that they are made aware of particular pupils' vulnerabilities.

**4.3** The Head Teacher will keep a record of relevant information which should be available to the child protection governor.

#### **5 THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS**

**5.1** The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on substance abuse education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines.

**5.2** The governors will inform and consult with parents about the substance abuse policy. The school will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

#### **6 THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

**6.1** The school is well aware that the primary role in children's substance abuse education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

inform parents about the school substance abuse policy and practice;  
invite parents to view the materials used to teach substance abuse education in our school; answer any questions parents may have about the substance abuse education their child receives in school; take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;

#### **7 MONITORING AND REVIEW**

**7.1** The Head Teacher will report annually to the curriculum committee of the governing body on the substance abuse education policy. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the substance abuse education programme and comments will be recorded by the Head Teacher, and

shared with the child protection governor. Governors require the Head Teacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the substance abuse education programme taught in the school.

**8 SMOKING ON SITE**

**8.1** Smoking is prohibited for pupils on site. Anyone caught smoking will have their cigarettes taken away. Parents will be informed usually by letter. Persistent offenders will have a Pre-Exclusion Contract (PEX) drawn up with parents involved. Continued refusal to comply with school rules could lead to exclusion.

**9 LINES OF ACTION**

**9.1** If a member of staff is suspicious about drug use or possession they should contact the Head. If an investigation is needed the head teacher or deputy head teacher will inform the student of what is happening and why. If the allegations are substantiated the Head teacher or Assistant Head would inform the parents. In the event of neither the Head Teacher nor Assistant Head being available then the Key Stage 1 co-ordinator would do this.

**10 DISCLOSURES OF OUT OF SCHOOL DRUG/ ALCOHOL ABUSE**

**10.1** The person the student trusted with this would keep a key role in the follow-up of such disclosures but the relevant Pastoral staff would assist by giving advice and support as above.

**11. DRUG PARAPHERNALIA ON SITE**

**11.1** Any drug related paraphernalia found on school site should be disposed of safely using Gardening gloves and wooden tongs. All needles should be disposed of in a sharp safe. Police should be informed that people are using the site out of hours for drug taking.

**12 MEDIA**

**12.1** Should the media wish a statement about any drug related incidents or drug education this will be given by the head teacher alone.

**13 MEDICINES IN SCHOOL**

**13.1** All prescription medicines should be handed in to the head teacher and accompanied by a note on usage and dosage.

**14 STAFF ISSUES**

**14.1** Staff should not smoke on premises.

**14.2** All new staff will be introduced to this policy as part of A induction to the school.

**14.3** Regular training should be provided for staff to maintain familiarity with the policy and to update skills both in the classroom and in dealing with the drug related incidents.

**Signed:**

**Head Teacher**

**Date:**

.....

**Chair of Governors**

**Date:**

.....

