



## Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

November 2015

### *Our Vision*

- We value every child's individuality
- We value the development of the whole child-academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.
- We value a broad and rich experience, alongside academic success.
- We value a happy, caring, sustainable, and safe environment.
- We value the contribution we make to, and receive from, parents and the wider community. We value the development of all staff to achieve their full potential.
- We value dynamic leadership and management.

### **Introduction**

The philosophy of the school is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all pupils are enabled to develop educationally and personally. We strive to prepare the children for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future lives.

### **Rationale**

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products exist. We recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential for harm. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of key addictive substances and their social and legal status, their uses and effects. Smoking is not allowed on the school site. Alcohol for adults is only permitted for any licensed event or at the discretion of the head for any special staffing event.

### **Aims of the Policy**

1. To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff
2. To link drug, alcohol and tobacco education to other policies in force in school
3. To bring clarity and consistency to the way all staff approach the subject of drugs
4. To provide effective management of any drugs on the school premises
5. To give appropriate attention to all drugs: legal drugs, medicines, solvents, socially disapproved drugs and illegal drugs
6. To give appropriate attention to all alcohol and tobacco products
7. To set down the basis for a planned drug, alcohol and tobacco education programme in accordance with LEA and national guidance

### **Parents**

The wishes of the parents are considered carefully; we try to ensure parents are aware of how we deal with these issues. Parents are welcome to come to the school to talk about any concerns or questions they have.

### **Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education**

We aim to bring about understanding about key drugs, alcohol and tobacco with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. We aim to build their self-confidence, their social skills and their belief in the significance of their own role in preserving their health and welfare. We also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make informed decisions.

Drug, alcohol and tobacco education is a planned and integral element of PSHE and is an entitlement of every pupil at the appropriate level. Teaching resources are chosen for their appropriate content.

**All pupils need to:**

1. Acquire and practice appropriate skills
2. Consider the explore the attitudes and values they hold as well as those held by others
3. Consider the social, health and legal issues raised by the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco
4. Build the confidence and support to be able to cope with situations where drugs, alcohol and tobacco are on offer
5. Know what drugs, alcohol and tobacco are, their uses and effects
6. Develop sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to preserve their own safety
7. Know the boundaries set by parents, school and law
8. Know where and how they can get help

**Education and Management**

1. We ensure that the children know the school rule that all drugs and medicines need to be managed at school by adults; this links with our health and safety and first aid policies.
2. We deal with the subject of drugs, alcohol and tobacco through a planned programme and also in response to opportunities as they arise in the classroom. We revisit issues as the pupils' awareness, readiness and experience grow with time, to build on previous learning.
3. We try and balance written work with active learning methods to ensure pupil participation in all PSHE and Science. Methods and teaching strategies that we use are drama, discussion and small group work.
4. Our pupils are helped to understand clearly that decisions about behaviour may lead to certain consequences.

**Outside Speakers**

We are supported in our drug, alcohol and tobacco education by police, school nurse and health promotion specialists.

**Actions to be taken for pupils:**

Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters/sniffable products or any illegal drugs at any time. Any found will be confiscated and only returned to parents or the police. Medicines must be in the care of adults or managed by the child with agreed teacher supervision.

If any pupil is thought to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required. Teachers will make routine enquiries to try and find out what substance is involved, its source and whether other pupils are involved. The priority will be pupils' safety. There are several named first-aiders on the staff.

If any pupil is found in possession of an illegal substance or is known to be using an illegal substance, the police will be informed at once. Any teacher or other adult in the school must be aware that if they confiscate the substance or hold on to it, then they will be in possession themselves - great care must be taken to have two adults present. Parents will normally be informed and any other outside professionals such as the LA, GP, Family Contact point or the school nurse. The Senior Management Team will try and determine the source of the substance and the involvement of any other pupils. Careful records will be kept.

The range of sanctions used for rule breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions, and will depend on the nature and the gravity of the offence. Pupil exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with DfE / LA guidance.

**Approved:** November 2015

**Next Review:** November 2017