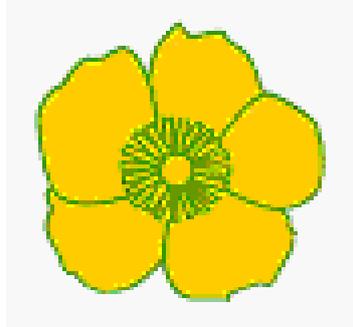


MEADOWSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Drugs Education Policy

Definition of a drug: A drug is any substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave. (United Nations Office on drugs and crime)

STATEMENT OF INTENT

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 drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people.

EQUALITY DUTY

At Meadowside School we want everyone to reach their full potential and to ensure that all members of our community are treated fairly in all situations.

The Equality Act provides us with a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF POLICY

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 drugs education 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 in relation to drugs in society.

1. Objectives:-

- To provide children with the knowledge and understanding about the role of drugs as medicines.
- To help children become self confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives.
- To provide a safe environment for children to share their thoughts and ideas.
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs or become aware of other people misusing drugs.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help.
- To increase knowledge of personal and social issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.
- To help children respect their own bodies.
- To provide a foundation for further work in Secondary School.

2. Content and Organisation

The drugs education programme will:-

- Provide information which is easy to understand and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils.
- Include the development of communication and social skills.
- Encourage the exploration and clarification of values and attitudes.
- It will be taught within the science curriculum, during work on health education, and in work on relationships in Personal and Social Health and Citizenship Education (P.S.H.C.E.)

We regard drugs 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, and explicitly within our PSHCE programme. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In 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 drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (P.S.H.C.E.) curriculum. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the LEA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LEA.

The teacher teaches the pupils drug education in PSHCE or Science lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or outside agencies. The teaching styles that we use encourage children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, 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 drugs are such a problem for society

The entire school grounds are a no smoking area. All visitors and staff are expected to comply with these expectations.

The Governors and staff take into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

3. The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher and co coordinator will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The Headteacher will monitor the implementation of this policy and report to governors, annually on the effectiveness of the policy.

4. The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

5. The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs 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 drugs education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs 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;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Inform parents of the best practice known with drugs education so that the parents can support their children.
- Information evenings for parents to attend regarding drug and solvent abuse.

6. Administration of drugs in school.

The school follows the NCC policy on medication.

7. Procedures for suspected drug related incidents

In the event of an incident of use or misuse of illegal substances on school premises such as possession of an illegal drug, individual use and selling or sharing substances with other pupils, the following action will be taken (appropriate to the incident);

- Incident will be reported to Headteacher and Senior Management Team and will then be passed on to the Chair of Governors.
- Full investigation of the incident. Discussions between staff members who know the pupil well.
- The pupil will be interviewed in the presence of a parent / carer. MEMBERS OF STAFF HAVE NO RIGHTS TO UNDERTAKE A PHYSICAL SEARCH. This will only be undertaken with the consent of a parent / carer and in their presence.
- Counseling and support using school's own pastoral arrangements (class teacher, Headteacher, pastoral care LSA)
- Temporary possession of suspected substances by Headteacher.
- Direct contact with parents by Headteacher. Verbal notification followed by consultation meeting (written report to be kept)
- Inform police, hand over of substance to the police.
- Application of appropriate sanction in accordance with the behavior policy. Fixed term or permanent exclusion may not necessarily be an appropriate sanction however these may be necessary as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.
- Enable access to appropriate professional support and advice from health and social services.

8. Monitoring and review

The programmes of study will be monitored initially by teaching staff and progress assessed through the development of children's attitudes, skills and knowledge within health education.

The Drugs subject leader will report to the governors annually on the progress of this policy and curriculum area.

Note: this policy should be read in conjunction with the P.S..H.C.E. policy