



Radipole Primary School

Drug Education Policy

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Date of Approval: September 2016

Date of Next Review: September 2019

*This policy has been reviewed in line with the 9 principles set out in the Single Equality Policy
and an initial screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.*

Drug Education Policy

1. DRUG DEFINITION

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is, "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". Drug' refers to all drugs including:

- medicines (over the counter and prescribed);
- volatile substances;
- alcohol;
- tobacco;
- illegal drugs.

2. INTRODUCTION

Radipole Primary school acknowledges the problems drug and alcohol misuse pose for all young people, the family and the wider community. The school and the wider community in partnership with Dorset Police and Dorset Drug and Alcohol Advisory Service (DDAAS) are committed to providing pupils/parents/carers with the knowledge and skills required to make informed, responsible, positive choices.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Drug Education Policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school;
- reinforce the pastoral role of our school to safeguard the health and safety of all who use the school;
- clarify this school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- ensure the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of this school;
- reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies such as Healthy Schools;
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs;
- enable staff to manage drugs on school premises and any incidents that occur with confidence and consistency.

4. Drug Education

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. Drug education is delivered through discrete Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education and/or other subject areas. All aspects of this area of the curriculum will be handled with discretion, sensitivity and due regard to the age and life experiences of the children.

A range of teaching strategies will be used as appropriate for the age and ability of the pupils with progression built into the Scheme of Work, for example Circle Time and the Life Education Van programme. Whatever teaching strategies are used, pupils will have the opportunity to reflect with their teacher on what they have learnt and learning outcomes will be identified and evaluated.

5. STAFF SUPPORT AND TRAINING

All staff will be made aware of the policy and their role in its implementation. Internal and external staff support and training will be given as appropriate.

6. ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEWING

Assessment

The elements of drug education that form part of the Science Curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2 must be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. The learning from the other elements of drug education will also be assessed as part of the overall Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) provision.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This will be integral to the planning and development of the PSHE programme.

Reviewing

The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

7. NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Where vulnerable children and members of the school community are identified the school will seek to ensure that they receive appropriate support through the curriculum, pastoral support or referral to internal or external services.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

In managing drugs the school will have regard to issues of confidentiality. Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to pupils. All external agencies who work within the school will be made aware of the confidentiality statement.

9. INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS/CARERS

The Drug Education Policy will be made available to parents and carers at the school.

CONFIDENTIALITY

A vital safeguard is never to promise secrecy when it is not appropriate. The need to protect children from significant harm means that no adult should guarantee a child absolute secrecy and the boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to young people before they are encouraged to disclose information. However, if further disclosure is considered necessary, it can be constructive to work with a pupil to help them see the value of such disclosure, and agree to it. It is also necessary to know when a breach of confidentiality (i.e. disclosure of confidential information against the wishes of the confidant) may be justified.

A confidant who is given information that indicates a child or young person is at risk of serious harm will have to consider whether it is in the child's best interests to disclose the information to other agencies or individuals. Each case should be judged on its individual merits, though most professionals interpret their moral and professional duty as indicating two situations where a breach of confidentiality is justified:

- where there is a child protection issue (refer to area child protection procedures); (the named person for child protection in our school is Mrs V Singer)
- where the life of the person is at risk.

From this, it is clear that a school should principally consider the health and safety of the pupil when considering how to respond to any disclosure about possession, supply or the use of unauthorised drugs.

Radipole School Policy on DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS AT SCHOOL

Radipole School will ensure that there is a clearly defined procedure for managing drug related incidents as effectively and consistently as possible.

Definition of a drug related incident

Incidents are likely to involve suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal or other unauthorised drugs. They could fit into the following categories:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises;
- a pupil demonstrates a totally inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age;
- a pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia;
- a pupil is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises;
- a pupil/parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence/misusing or has information regarding the sale or supply of drugs.

Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community. Illegal drugs have no place in schools. However, there are instances where other drugs may legitimately be in school. For the purpose of this document the definition of an illegal substance is one identified in the categories of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Medicines

See separate policy on Medicines in school.

Volatile Substances

This school will take careful account of how any solvents or hazardous chemicals are legitimately used by school staff or pupils, and how these substances are stored securely and managed to prevent inappropriate access or use. Such potentially hazardous materials are kept to an absolute minimum and wherever possible, safe alternatives are used.

Alcohol

If alcohol is authorised in school, for example at parent/carer or community events, the arrangement for storage or use will be agreed and adhered to.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in any part of the school's premises or grounds. This is in keeping with the Whole School Approach advocated by the National Healthy Schools Standard.

DEALING WITH MEDICAL EMERGENCIES INVOLVING DRUGS

In any case of an incident involving drugs Radipole School will place the utmost priority on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues.

RECORDING AND REPORTING

The school will keep a record of any drug related incident. This provides an important means of keeping track of the number of incidents occurring and of the nature and appropriateness of the response. The storage of this sensitive information will be secure and confidential and accord with the requirements of the current Data Protection Procedures.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In managing drugs the school will have regard to issues of confidentiality. **Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality.** The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to pupils. All external agencies working within the school will be made aware of the confidentiality statement.

It is important that any action taken is in the best interests of the pupils concerned, the whole school and the wider community.

The school may maintain confidentiality and is not obliged in law to take any action in the following circumstances:

- being told that a young person has used an illegal drug;
- observing possession or use of an illegal drug outside the school day or off the school premises.

However, although not legally obliged to do so, the school will feel it appropriate to inform parents/carers and/or police unless there are compelling reasons otherwise. This would be a very exceptional circumstance. The Head teacher will take any decision in this regard.

The school has a statutory requirement to breach confidentiality:

- where there is a child protection issue;
- where the life of the person is at risk

PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT

The school seeks to provide all pupils with support and guidance through the pastoral system. There are a range of specialist agencies that can offer individual and, where appropriate, confidential support.

Where pupils are identified as being at risk, the school's Child Protection Policy would be implemented. The school's DSP is the head teacher – Mrs V Singer.

DRUG OR SOLVENT MISUSE – RECOGNISING THE SIGNS

Early detection of substance misuse is a key part of prevention. Research has shown that a young person's first experience of substance misuse will almost always involve a substance provided by a friend.

SAFE HANDLING OF SUBSTANCES/ PARAPHERNALIA

Paraphernalia

Needles and syringes found on school premises will be placed in a secure container, using gloves

Substances

The law permits the school to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purpose of preventing an offence being committed or continued in relation to that drug. The school will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the substance in a plastic bag and store it in a secure location;
- contact the police if the substance needs to be disposed of, and they will be asked to collect the substance
- record details of the incident.

The law does not require the school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken. **Where a pupil is identified the police will be required to follow set internal procedures.**

SEARCHES

Before carrying out a search the school will always seek consent and a second adult witness must be present when the search is carried out.

If consent is refused the school will consider whether to contact the police.

PARENTS/CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE

The focus of this school will always be on the maintenance of the pupil's welfare as opposed to the moderation of the parents/carers behaviour.

If a teacher has concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer who they believe to be under the influence of drugs, they will discuss if alternative arrangements can be made.

If the behaviour of a parent/carer is placing a pupil at risk or a parent/carer becomes abusive and/or violent, staff will consider whether to invoke child protection procedures and/or involvement of the police.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

If advice and information is required the school will contact the School Community Education Officer.

If an incident is considered more serious and the police are contacted and the pupil is named, **THE POLICE WILL BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW SET INTERNAL PROCEDURES AND IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO DUE LEGAL PROCESS.**

REFERENCES

1. Drugs: Guidance for Schools (Department for Education and Skills, 2004) Ref: DfES/0092/2004
2. Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education: Curriculum guidance for schools at Key Stage 1 – 4 (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, 2004)
3. National Healthy School Standard Drug Education (including alcohol and tobacco) (Department of Health, 2003)
4. Every Child Matters: Change for Children. (Department for Education and Skills, 2004) Ref DfES–1110-2004
5. Scheme of Work (Dorset) Key Stage One and Two.