

St Botolph's C of E (C) Primary School

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS POLICY



**Celebrating Faith,
Learning and Success**

Date approved: 10 November 2014
Review Date: Autumn 2016

St Botolph's Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Health Promotion

A Policy for Drugs and Alcohol Awareness

1. Introductory Statement

- 1.1 St Botolph's is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.
- 1.2 We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and will seek to support all in the handling of drug related situations.
- 1.3 Our school takes a positive stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum.

DEFINITIONS

- 1.4 Drug – A drug is any substance that affects how a person acts, thinks or feels. The term includes medicinal and non-medicinal drugs, legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 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 drug taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs.
- 2.2 The objectives of our drugs education programme are:
 - to provide children with knowledge and information about drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
 - to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, 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 drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
 - to help children respect their own bodies and, in doing so, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
 - to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
 - To ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

3. Planning and Delivery

- 3.1

- we regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum via our PSHE & Citizenship teaching.
- in addition, each class teacher answers questions about drugs 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 drugs. 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 aim to teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

3.2 Drugs education is an important part of our school's PSHE & Citizenship curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in all year groups, where the children are taught about drugs and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching the Cambridgeshire Personal Development Programme we follow the guidelines provided by the local authority, and we receive advice and support from them. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA. 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 drug 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 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.

3.4 If issues of a sensitive nature arise, efforts will be made to safeguard the interests of the individual child and the class as a whole. If the issue relates to child protection, it will be dealt with according to the Child Protection Policy.

4. The role of the headteacher

4.1 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 and support so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

4.2 The headteacher/co-ordinator 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.

4.3 The headteacher will monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

5. The role of governors

5.1 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 LA 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 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 aim to

- inform parents about the drugs education policy and practice
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives at school
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary

7. The role of pupils

7.1 Pupils following the scheme of work will be given information which may be of a sensitive nature and they will be expected to act responsibly. All pupils will be able to contact key workers to access support and information when needed.

8. Outside visitors

8.1 Outside visitors will be expected to work within the school policy, in close liaison with the class teachers.

9. Equal opportunities

Our school is committed to:

- creating an ethos in which pupils and staff feel valued and secure
- building self-esteem and confidence in our pupils, so that they can then use these qualities to influence their own relationships with others
- having consistent expectations of pupils and their learning.
- removing or minimising barriers to learning so that all pupils can achieve
- ensuring that our teaching takes into account the learning needs of all pupils through our schemes of work and lesson planning

10. Monitoring & Review

10.1 The policy will be monitored regularly and changes made where necessary.