

Lakenheath Community Primary School

Drugs Education Policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 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 and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

1.2 The objectives of our drugs education are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal 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.

2 Organisation

2.1 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. 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 teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

2.2 Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. In teaching we follow guidelines provided by the LEA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority.

3 The role of the Headteacher

- 3.1 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, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 3.2 The Headteacher 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.
- 3.3 The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

4 The role of governors

- 4.1 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 LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

5 The role of parents

- 5.1 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 will:
 - inform parents about the school 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 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;
 - inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support they key messages being given to children at school.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1 The governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy. The governing body takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about drugs education and comments will be recorded. Governors require the Headteacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of drug education taught in the school.

Drug and Alcohol Related Incidents

“The Police should be informed whenever an incident involving illegal substances has taken place at school. But the degree and form of police involvement is best determined through close consultation with the local force at the stage of policy development” (Protecting Young People, DfEE, 1998).

At Lakenheath CP School we believe that schools cope best when they have a prepared structure. Each drug or alcohol related incident may be unique but strategies will be in place to help all eventualities.

All Drug and Alcohol related incidents should be reported to the Headteacher, but if emergency aid is needed this should be carried out first.

Contingency Plan

Potential incidents have been identified, and outline plans prepared.

- **Needle Stick Injury**

1. Wash for 5 minutes under cold running water.
2. Cover with plaster.
3. Go to A & E, don't wait in a queue, but tell them exactly what has happened.
4. Fill in an Incident Form.

Needles should be placed into a sharps container, kept in the Caretakers cupboard, and locked away until collected. **DO NOT TAKE THE NEEDLE WITH YOU TO HOSPITAL.**

- **Biting**

1. If blood is not drawn a standard letter should be sent home to parents.
2. Wound should be covered with a plaster.
3. If blood is drawn parents should be contacted immediately and advised to take the children to the nearest A & E. This applies to the victim and the person who has bitten. This is because of the risk of blood born viruses.

- **Blood**

1. All wounds involving blood should be dealt with wearing latex gloves.
2. All wounds involving blood should be covered with a waterproof plaster.
3. All blood waste should be double bagged and put in the yellow bag containers.

Date of Review: