

## **Killingholme Primary School Drugs Policy - 2014**

### **Introduction**

This policy explains the approach that we have towards drugs. It sets out how we promote healthy attitudes as well as how we respond to incidents. The policy has been discussed by the staff and approved by the governors at the meeting held on 8th December 2014.

### **Aims**

The purpose of this Drug Policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the school's drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drug-related issues on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

### **Links with other School Policies**

Our school drugs policy links to other policies – namely Behaviour, Health and Safety, Medicines, Pastoral Support, PSHE, Visitors, School Visits, Child Protection & Safeguarding.

### **Where and to whom the policy applies**

This policy applies to the school premises and perimeters and also:

- Journeys in school time
- Work experience
- Residential trips
- During the school day

## **Definitions**

A drug is any substance other than food, water and oxygen people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Illegal drugs have no place in schools. However, there are instances where other drugs may legitimately be in school.

- Medicines – some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day – See Medicines Policy.
- Non-prescribed medicines – See Medicine Policy
- Volatile substances – must be securely stored to prevent inappropriate access or use.
- Alcohol is not permitted in school other than in unopened bottles for prizes or gifts in school events. Children are not allowed to take home unopened bottles won as prizes, but these are kept at school for an adult to collect
- Tobacco – See separate school smoking policy.

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils. In every case of an incident involving drugs, we will place the utmost priority in ensuring the safety of pupils and staff, providing first aid for any medical emergencies and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues.

## **Staff with key responsibility**

The headteacher is the designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all drug issues within the school. His/her prime responsibility includes overseeing the planning and co-ordination of drug education and the management of drug incidents in accordance with the procedure laid out in this policy.

All staff should be fully aware of the procedures for managing incidents, including whom they should inform and who has authority regarding issues such as searching school property and involving the police.

## **Drugs Education**

Drugs Education provides children/young people with opportunities to:

- Develop their knowledge, skills attitudes and understanding about drugs

- Develop an appreciation of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions

Drugs education is a major component of drug prevention. Prevention of Drug abuse will help social inclusion and reduce inequalities in health.

Drug Education is delivered through Statutory National Curriculum Science Orders and PSHE provision.

In each year, the needs of children/young people are first identified and lessons are planned at the appropriate level.

We provide drugs education for adults through the North Lincolnshire support team to help to raise community awareness and understanding of the issues.

### **Management of Drugs at school**

We have adopted the guidance for responding to incidents involving drugs  
DfES-Drugs: Guidance for schools 2004

### **Responding to drug incidents**

Drug incidents may include:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on school premises
- A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge for their age
- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs

A careful investigation will take place to judge the nature and seriousness of each incident, the needs of those involved and the most appropriate response.

If during the course of the investigation the school decides that the police should be involved they should cease immediately to enable the police to conduct a full detailed enquiry.

Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community, and aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

### **Parents/Carers under the influence of drugs on school premises**

When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. In such instances, discuss with the parent/carer if alternative

arrangements could be made, for example, asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home. The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of parent's/carer's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of a parent/carer under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk or the parents/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedure and/or the involvement of police.

### **Staff conduct and drugs**

Tobacco – See separate school Smoking Policy

Alcohol – There should be no consumption of alcohol by any staff while they have care of children/young people.

Staff misuse/abuse – if this is known or suspected the appropriate North Lincolnshire Council policy and procedures should be followed

### **The role of the police**

Legal drugs:

The police will not expect to be routinely involved in incidents involving legal drugs but the school will inform the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.

Illegal drugs:

School has no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police.

Nevertheless, not informing the police may prove to be counter-productive for the school and wider community. The police should, however, be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs.

### **Referral and external support**

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

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to the pupil. If the pupil discloses information that is sensitive, not generally known and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- Child protection and Inclusion
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external agencies

Every effort should be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. See Confidentiality Policy.

This policy will be due for review in December 2017.

C Eaton  
December 2014