

Hasland Junior School
Policy on drugs / substance use and misuse.

Introductory Statement.

We acknowledge the fact that many children at Hasland Junior School, as in schools all over the country, are becoming increasingly exposed to, and aware of drugs in our society.

Through drug education we aim to provide our pupils with opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug and substance misuse.

We aim to ensure that our children are equipped with the attitudes and skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs and other substances and to enable them to make healthy informed choices.

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Education of every pupil.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and cooperation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is important to recognise that the larger numbers of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We will however provide drug education to **all** pupils through our general health education programme.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of our drug education programme are:

- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs.
- To enhance young people's capacity to contribute to school policies on drugs misuse.

- To enhance young people's decision-making skills, using drugs education as a vehicle.
- To enhance parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when pupils reach adulthood.

The above are seen as issues relating to increasing knowledge, changing attitudes and enhancing skills:

- To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse.
- To delay the onset of first use for those who do experiment at any time.
- To minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse.
- To persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs to have concerns about their behaviour and to seek help.

The above are seen as issues relating to pupil behaviour.

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs, and to help reduce school problems associated with drug use.

The above are seen as issues relating to citizenship / PSHCE.

Definition of a drug

A drug is any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates a change in perception and/or mood and/or how the body functions.

Accurate information will be provided to the children about the law on drug misuse: the physiological and psychological effects of drugs and a realistic account of their implications for the individual, the family and the wider society.

Illegal substances such as Amphetamines and Ecstasy, tobacco, solvents and alcohol will all be referred to/discussed during Drug Education.

The term 'Drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All illegal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the counter and prescription medicines

Our Drug Education Programme.

- Drug Education is taught as part of an integrated programme of PCSHE, preparing children for adult life.
- Drug Education is a shared responsibility. What is learned in school can and should be supported by the home and the community.
- Our Drug Education Programme takes into account the age and maturity of the children and the local circumstances of the community.
- It provides the children with factual and accurate information in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug / substance misuse.
- Our Drug education programme will be backed up with access to advice or help for pupils with problems or concerns.

Drug Education will be addressed through aspects of the formal curriculum in Science and PSHCE and through less formal opportunities during pastoral sessions.

Teaching Methods.

We aim to deliver drugs education in an interactive, thought provoking and interesting manner by using a variety of teaching methods and approaches. These may include :

- Discussion
- Role Play
- Drama
- Video presentations
- Use of visiting speaker / outside agencies.

Schemes of Work.

Aspects of drug education is taught specifically as part of the Science curriculum in Y3 and Y6. Through PSHCE curriculum Y3, Y5 and Y6 learn Drugs education CD part of the spiral curriculum (see SOW). Issues concerning drug education will also be taught to the school as a whole when circumstance require this action.(For example, when a syringe is found near to the school premises.) See SOW for specific details.

Materials

We have a wide range of materials.

Appropriate activities are used to support our drug education programme.

These are easily accessible in the resource room.

- The Primary School Drugs Pack - Health Wise
- The World of Drugs- Tacade
- Go For Health – Derbyshire County Council.
- Drugs in school - How to cope publishers – Derbyshire County Council.
- Thinking about Drinking – BNTL Freeway.

- Drug Education. Key Stages 1 and 2. Spellbinder. CD Rom
- A range of support materials from the ASK Derbyshire County Council CD Rom

Roles and Responsibilities.

Teachers

All teachers are involved in the teaching of drug education. Training is available to all staff as and when appropriate.

All Staff

All staff constantly monitor the health of children. They are aware warning signs which may indicate a child's drug misuse. These include:

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities.
- Decline in performance in school work.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports from parents that more time is spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups.
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money Stealing money or goods.
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause.
- No interest in physical appearance.
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose.
- Lack of appetite
- Heavy use of scents, colognes etc to disguise the smell of drugs.
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils)
- Regular absence on certain days.
- Keeping at a distance from other pupils, away from supervision points (eg groups who frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field)
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking.
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises
- Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person.
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances.
- Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group.

Involvement of external agencies.

Visitors from outside agencies may be involved in Drug Education. Where visitors are involved, staff ensure they ;

- are never left alone with the class.

- are aware of the drug education policy and the aims of the session
- are aware of what aspects of drug education the children have already /will experience
- know how the session will be followed up.
- know in advance about the group to be taught:
 - numbers
 - age
 - time
 - premises
 - resources

Caretaker

The caretaker is aware of objects that may indicate Drug Misuse and checks the school grounds for signs of these as part of his daily routine.

Used syringes or discarded needles are disposed of by the local authority's environmental services department for the safe and secure disposal of dangerous matter.

Headteacher

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. They are responsible for liaison with the Governing Body, Parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

The Headteacher will be informed immediately of any drug related incident.

The school seeks to work in partnership with parents. Therefore, the Headteacher will at the earliest possible opportunity contact parents of any child involved in drug related incidents or suspected of being involved either in or outside school hours or premises.

The Headteacher will contact the police when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises.

When 'rumours' about drug misuse cannot be substantiated, the Headteacher will use their discretion about whether or not the police will be informed. The deciding factor would be whether or not the child or others was seen to be in danger.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media and will, where necessary, take advice from the LA Press Office and Legal Department to ensure that the reporting of any incident remains in the best interest of young people, their families and the school.

Governor Involvement.

At Hasland Junior School, governors are actively in any decisions regarding PSHCE, Citizenship and Drug Education.

The contents of this policy and the associated SOW have been drawn up in consultation with the curriculum sub committee of the governing body.

The committee will also be involved in any review of policy or practice.

Role of Parents

Drug Education is a shared responsibility between school, outside agencies and parents. To provide parents with information to help their understanding of drugs, and drug education, a drug workshop for parents will be held periodically. This will be provided in school by specialised outside agencies.

It is hoped that parents who are concerned about their child and drugs will contact school for support.

Confidentiality

Where a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she is involved in or exposed to drug misuse, the member of staff will make it clear to the pupil that they cannot offer confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse.

Pastoral Care and support for pupils at Risk.

Where a pupil has been identified as having experimented with illegal drugs or as being at particular risk of doing so, support from specialised outside agencies will be sought by the Headteacher. This may be provided by The Education Welfare Service, local health and social services and local police.

Managing drug related issues

It is against the school rules for any child to bring any drugs (including conventional medicines) onto the school site. The only exception to this would be inhalers for asthma.

A “drug related incident” is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine, tobacco or alcohol by the children.

It may involve drug related incidents with parents.

The school believes it is in the best interests of all concerned to inform parents / carers of any reported drug related incidents. The exception would be where the school believes that the child could be at serious risk from the parent / carer.

As in all circumstances, where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect, the child protection procedures will be applied or a referral made to the Social Services Department for a Child In Need Assessment if the school feels that the incident does not require a child protection investigation.

Well being

The Health and well being of pupils who have or may have taken a drug is of paramount importance.

Therefore, an ambulance would be called immediately if any child had, or was suspected of misuse of drugs.

In the first instance this would be done by Headteacher, School Business Manager or Senior Leader. In their absence, the ambulance would be called by any member of staff.

Discipline

Any drug related incident will be managed within the existing disciplinary procedures used by the school.

The Headteacher will decide how to respond to particular incidents after taking into account factors such as the age of the pupil concerned, number of pupils involved and evidence of peer group pressure.

We are committed to tackling drug misuse among young people. Any instances of possession use or supply of illegal substances on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Administration of medicines.

In most cases, parents will be expected to administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours. Where this is not possible, parents of children in need of medication must ensure that the School is accurately advised about the medication, its usage and administration. All medicines are stored securely in the Office with access only by staff with keys. In the case of asthma reliever inhalers, these are kept with the pupils for easy and immediate access. All medicines on site must be accompanied by a completed 'Parental Consent for Schools to Administer Medicines' form.

Emergencies and First Aid.

When required, basic first aid is administered by named first aiders: John Stringer or Gail Booker.

Any "serious" issues / injuries are reported to the headteacher.

If the headteacher or the person reporting the injury has any real concern for the child's well being, the parents will be contacted immediately.

Where parents cannot be contacted, the child will be taken to the casualty department of the Chesterfield Hospital or an ambulance called.

Dissemination

All parents, staff and governors will have access to the drug education policy. It will be made available on the school website.

Associated Policies

Sex/Health Education

Disciplinary procedures (Behaviour Policy)

Monitoring , reviewing and updating the policy.

The headteacher will use medium term plans to monitor the teaching of the drug education programme.

The policy statement and associated SOW will be reviewed by the staff and governors every four years.

Policy Date : November 2016

Review date November 2020.