



Stocksfield Avenue Primary School

Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy



Context

The Government's National Drug strategy annual review (2015) reiterates the role of schools in combatting drug and alcohol misuse: "Education plays an important role in helping to ensure that young people are equipped with the information they need to make informed, healthy decisions and to keep themselves safe"

We believe that drug education is a vital part of the personal, social and health education of every pupil. Drug education is more than just information, it is important that children have the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to make positive choices in a drug using world.

Rationale

At Stocksfield Avenue Primary, our Drug and Education programme provides pupils with age-appropriate information about substances we use in our lives that may harm us if misused. Our programme has been written in line with the National PSHE Association Programme of study (2015).

We feel it is important that our children are educated in a healthy and safe environment in which the use or supply of drugs and alcohol by pupils, staff or visitors is not tolerated.

Within this policy, our definition of 'drug' includes: medicines, household substances, novel psychoactive substances (NPS-'legal highs'), tobacco, alcohol and illegal substances.

Our Drug and Alcohol Education programme

Our programme forms part of PSHE and is co-ordinated by Mrs Anderson. Some elements of Drug and Alcohol education may be delivered through the Science curriculum. Our programme is delivered by our teaching and support staff.

Our Drug and Alcohol Education programme is taught across the Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 & 2. Our programme builds on and develops previous learning throughout the pupils' time in school. We teach it through our topics and sometimes discretely. We may have informal discussions, often child-initiated which are age-appropriate and in line with national PSHE guidance (PSHE Association, 2015).

We cover important issues such as: safety, risk taking, impacts on health and relationships. We discuss substances that are relevant to the age and experience of our pupils. For example, substances in the home, medicines, alcohol as a social drug and substances that are illegal.

Our Drug and Alcohol Education programme is complimented by the School Nursing Service who deliver a session on Tobacco Awareness.

More detail of our programme on the Curriculum section of our website. Parents/Carers are welcome to contact school to help us review our programme and resources.

Drug and Alcohol Education and Safeguarding

Our programme is taught in an age-appropriate and sensitive way which does not encourage the sharing of personal information and disclosures. If a child makes any reference to being at risk or involved in any unsafe or inappropriate behaviour or activity, we will support them and their family following our Safeguarding policy. This is available to parents on our school website.

Stocksfield Avenue Primary School is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its staff and pupils. Please see our separate Smoke Free policy which is on our website for further information.

Managing Drug related incidents

In the event of a drug or alcohol related incident on school premises, school visits, trips and residentials, including those made outside of normal school hours, the Head teacher will respond appropriately in line with the Newcastle City Council Drug Related Incident Protocol (2014).

Reviewed: May 2018

Next Review Due: May 2020