

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Drugs Policy

Thakeham Primary School

Date approved by Standards, Teaching & Learning Committee:
27.06.19

Review Date: July 2020

Signed

Headteacher: *S. Norton*

Chair of Governors: *A. Rami*

Drugs Policy Statement

This drugs policy will be disseminated to all staff and central copies will be kept in the office, Medical room and be stored electronically on the school system and website. Parts of the policy may be replicated in other school publications. The document should be used in conjunction with the behaviour, health and safety, medicine and child protection policies.

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working within the school. Parents will also be informed of this policy.

Introduction

Research has shown that by the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience.

Furthermore research shows that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The figures also suggest the first age of experimentation is decreasing and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both illegal and legal drugs. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' stated that schools had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

Aims

Specific aims outlined in the national guidance (DfE 2012) are:

- clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false information and beliefs
- to provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs
- improve their self-esteem and self confidence
- to encourage children to value themselves and others
- make informed decisions and choices
- develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- maintain and develop relationships
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- ensure all staff in dealing are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use
- support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use

At Thakeham Primary School our drug education aims to support this purpose and is set up to fulfil these aims.

Definition

A drug is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave" (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

The term 'drug' refers to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates;
- All over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

Thakeham Primary School forbids the possession/use of illegal drugs and substances, or use of such drugs in the school premises or grounds or during off site, school related activities. Our school will take appropriate action if any pupil of this school or any person on these premises uses such drugs.

Please refer to the schools Medicines Policy for guidance on the use and storage of over the-counter and prescribed drugs in school.

Resources

Drugs education is part of the planned PSHE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of Science and through circle time. The National Curriculum guidelines for Science require that children are taught:-

- At KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines
- At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

At Thakeham Primary School we draw on specific objectives from the PSHE Association Framework to support our work.

Cross Curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with Science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum within the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Dealing with a drugs related incident in school

Thakeham Primary School forbids the possession/use of illegal drugs and substances, or use of such drugs in the school premises or grounds or during off site, school related activities. Our school will take appropriate action if any pupil of this school or any person on these premises uses such drugs.

Please refer to the school's Medicines Policy for guidance on the use and storage of over the-counter and prescribed drugs in school.

Any drugs related incident should immediately be reported to:

The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher..

A member of staff trained in first aid, should be contacted in the case of a medical emergency.

Samples of suspected illegal substances will be handed to the Headteacher who will store them in a locked container with a signed witness statement including all relevant information about the source of the sample.

Confidential Sensitive information will only be disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to the pupil's rights and needs. Although we have no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, our school will contact our local liaison officer and act on their advice. The police would also be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs.

Parents at Thakeham Primary School will encourage parents to support their efforts on drug awareness and prevention.

Current advice from DfE regarding drug related incidents:-

School staff are best placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs within their school. This is most effective when:

- *it is supported by the whole school community;*
- *drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE education delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary;*
- *staff have access to high quality training and support. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK and Urban75 for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services and drug services. These sources can be used as part of, or in addition to, the school's own drug and alcohol education. If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.*

See appendices for a quick reference guide in dealing with drugs and individuals on the school premises.

Staff Training

Staff attending relevant training will disseminate the information to other staff as appropriate. Staff may receive training in-house, through courses or visits to other schools.

Useful local addresses and support

School Liaison Officer 01444 445954

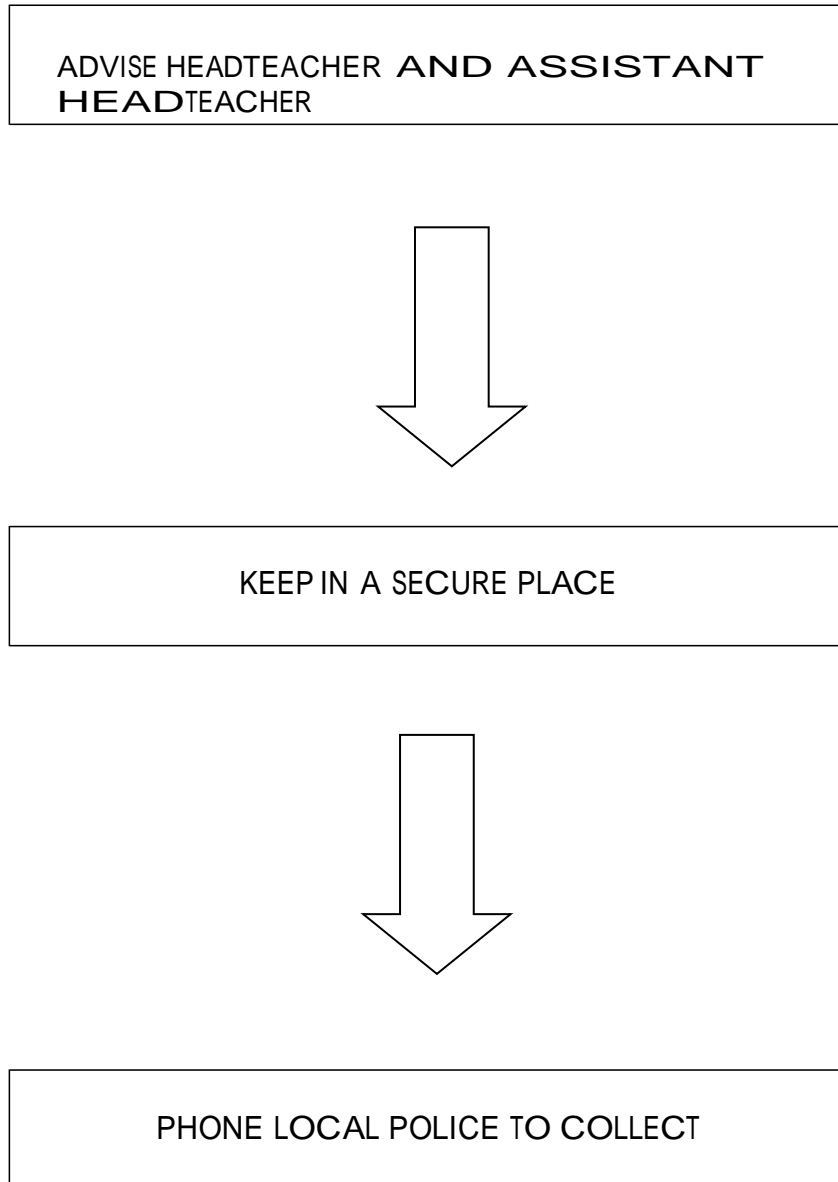
Families and friends project 01243 382940 offer Support and information from the drug and alcohol action team. West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team 01243 382943 Freephone 10am -10pm helpline 08000254450 (PATCHED)

FRANK 0800 77 66 00 www.talktofrank.com 24 hour national drugs helpline

Sussex Alcohol and Substance Use Service (SASS) 01273 727 888 focussed counselling for people with substance use problems and their significant others.

APPENDIX 1

ILLEGAL DRUGS FOUND ON PREMISES



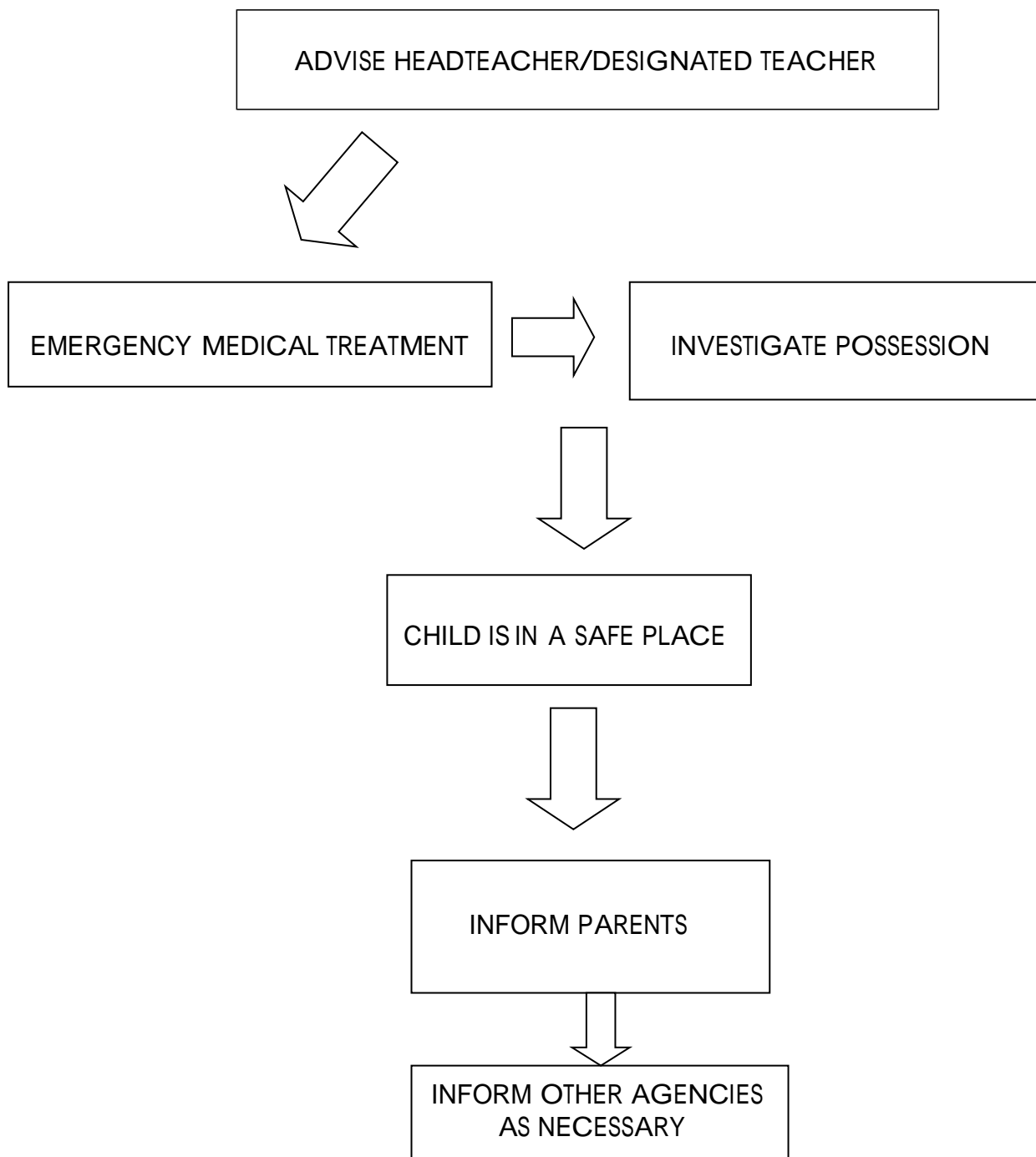
Drugs Awareness

Do not touch, sniff, handle

WSCC will be notified of all reported incidents

APPENDIX 2

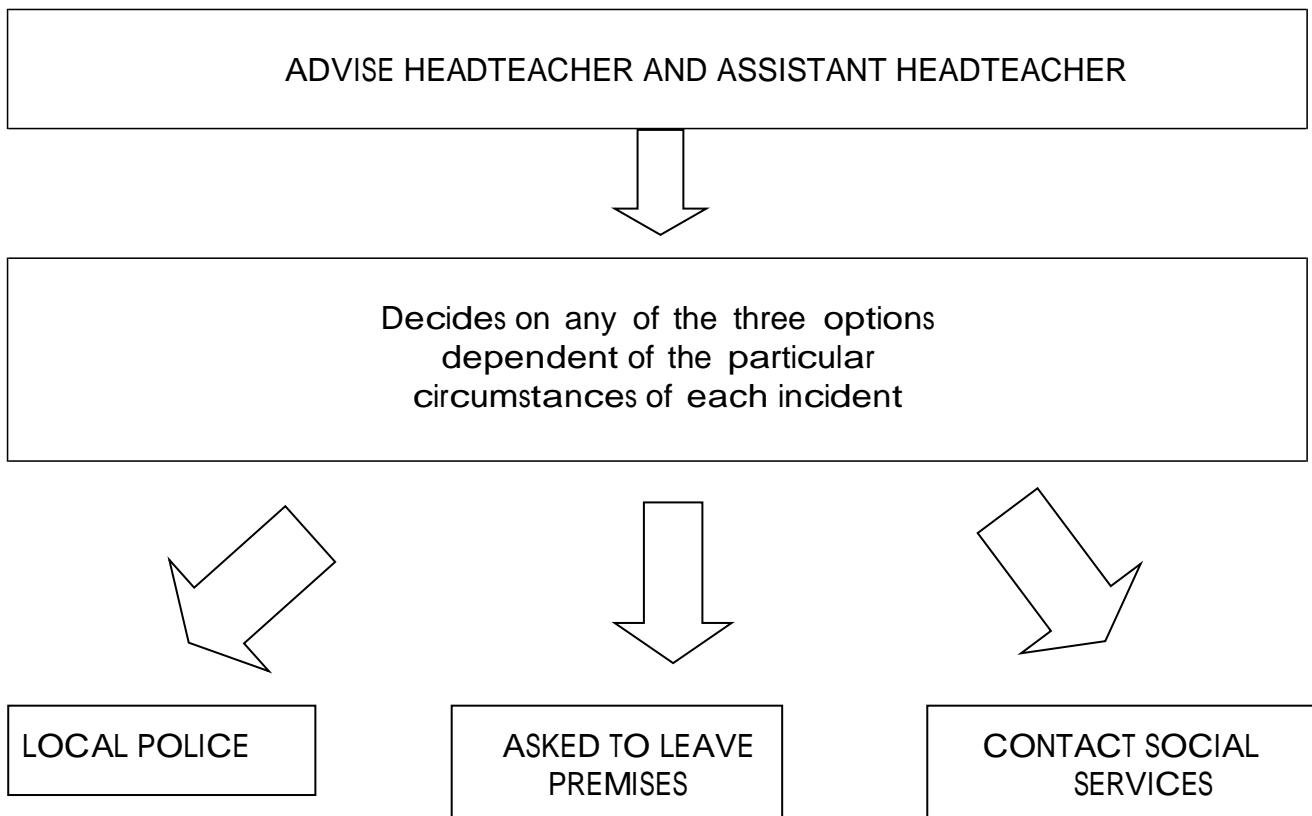
PUPILS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL



Inform LA Advisor of any incident

APPENDIX 3

PARENTS/CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES



Inform LA Advisor of any incident

No alcohol will be permitted to be drunk by a member of staff on school premises.

APPENDIX 4

STAFF/GOVERNORS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES

