



Keskowethyans
Multi Academy Trust

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| Date Reviewed by the Committee | 25.04.16 |
| Date Adopted by The Board | 09.05.16 |
| To be reviewed next | |
| Signed by Chair | |

Drugs Education Policy

| Date policy sent to | Date |
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| Secretaries | 11.05.16 |
| Lead Teachers | 11.05.16 |
| GS for Website | 11.05.16 |
| Relevant other i.e. Safeguarding Director/ Subject Co-ordinator | 11.05.16 |

Context

The Keskwethyans MAT recognises that the misuse of drugs is a major social problem which has implications that must be addressed by the schools so that our children are empowered to make appropriate choices and decisions related to the issue of drugs.

One of the aims of the MAT is to offer a wide ranging education, to prepare pupils for life both in their own community and beyond. Appropriate drugs education is an essential requirement if this aim is to be realised.

Aims

- To promote in pupils an awareness of how they can take measures in order to keep their bodies healthy.
- To develop an awareness that a drug is any chemical substance which brings about a change in a person's body functioning or behaviour, and the way in which such substances can affect physical, mental, or emotional states.
- To promote the understanding that some drugs are used to treat medical conditions.
- To encourage children to understand that all medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines.
- To promote awareness that all drugs are potentially harmful.
- To encourage children to understand that some drugs which are potentially very harmful are legal e.g. tobacco and alcohol, whilst others are illegal e.g. cannabis.
- To encourage empathy with people who need to take drugs on a regular basis to control chronic medical conditions e.g. asthma and diabetes.
- To ensure children know what to do if they encounter an unknown substance or article such as discarded needles or syringes.
- To enable children to identify appropriate sources of personal support for themselves or others with regard to drug related issues.
- To establish a code for responding to incidents involving drugs (See under heading "Response to Incidents" overleaf).

Implementation

The above aims are fulfilled primarily through the health and safety aspects of the science curriculum (Life Processes and Living Things), PSHE and the general requirements of the P.E. curriculum, as well as other subjects of the taught curriculum such as English, R.E. and geography. In addition, there are further opportunities within the informal curriculum, extra-curricular activities, separate health education modules, and through role-play.

The MAT aims to co-operate with other agencies such as the school nurse, community police, social services and health and drugs agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of subject use and misuse.

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Board of Directors, parents and appropriate outside agencies.

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

Response to Incidents

If there is an instance involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, following discussion with staff members who are immediately responsible for the welfare of the child concerned, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher. The School and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person indicates that they have been using or supplying substances off the premises, the Headteacher must be informed in order that the parents can be informed, if it is considered appropriate to do so.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. Every effort will be made to establish a good relationship with the police liaison officer who will be the first point of contact with the police.

The School will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and local community.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the Schools policy is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on other employees and the environment.

As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the School will take appropriate legal advice and guidance to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the School.