

Woodthorpe J.I. School

Drug Education Policy

1 Introduction

In 2012 the DfES updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the Science and PSHE programmes of study. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the LA.

2 The Aims and Objectives of Drug Education

2.1 Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about:

- the short and long term risks of drugs;
- the rules and laws relating to drugs;
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities;
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers; and
- the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

2.2 Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions about drugs and keep themselves safe and healthy, including

- assessing avoiding or managing the risk;
- resisting pressures;
- finding information, help and advice;
- devising problem solving and coping strategies; and
- developing self awareness and self esteem.

2.3 Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and other influences.

3 Definition of the Word 'Drug'

A drug is defined as, 'a substance that people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

This policy will encompass all drugs:

Controlled drugs

New psychoactive substances (these are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act)

Alcohol

Tobacco

Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine

Over the counter medicines e.g. cough medicines, decongestants

Prescribed medicines

Volatile substances e.g. aerosols, butane, petrol

Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, LSD, ecstasy, heroin

4 Responsibilities

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy; and
- liaise with the police and support services when necessary.

The Governing Body will:

- designate a governor with specific responsibility for monitoring drugs education;
- establish general guidelines on drugs education; and
- support the Headteacher in following these guidelines and liaising with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

5 Drugs Education

- 5.1** We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.
- 5.2** Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.
- 5.3** In Key Stage 2 pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers. This is taught in the Science and PSHE curriculum.
- 5.4** We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

6 Outside Agencies

As a school we will ensure that any outside agency making a contribution to the education of our pupils, will be giving the same 'message' as the school and will be made aware of the school's policy.

7 Staff training

All school staff will be made aware of the opportunities for training.

8 Monitoring and evaluation

The Curriculum and Policy committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy. The Curriculum and Policy committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded.

9 The Rights of Every Child

Woodthorpe JI School uses the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child to ensure that every policy supports the improvement of life chances for children. Articles: 1, 2, 3, 33.

Signed:

Dated: 25th January 2018

Review: January 2021