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Co-op Academy
Parkland

Drugs Education Policy

This policy was developed by staff as part of the Healthy School's initiative.

Introduction

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drugs issues. The policy forms an integral part of our existing health education and personal and social education programmes and the drug education programme complements this.

Rationale

Parkland Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

Drugs Education in Context

A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential and within the programme pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drugs use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

The Range of Substances

A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco
- over the counter medicines, such as paracetamol for headaches
- prescribed drugs such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- volatile substances such as glue and aerosols
- illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs.

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The Place of Drugs Education within the Curriculum

Drug education should not be seen as a one-off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual but also the family, their peer groups and the wider community. Where possible the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

Drugs Education is specifically included within the Programmes of Study for Science, and within other subjects such as Religious Education, English and P.E. there are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from a variety of perspectives.

The Aims and Objectives of the Drugs Education Programme

The school's drugs education programme is grounded in the following aims and objectives:

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect
- To build pupils' self esteem
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse and the risks involved
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

Objectives

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse ●
Develop self-discipline
- Understand what is meant by a 'drug' and the definition of 'addiction'
- Understand how some drugs affect the body
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns

The Delivery and Organisation of the Drugs Education Programme

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Drugs Education is a whole staff issue. Parkland Primary School ensures that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to the policy which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum.

Outside Agencies

Parkland Primary School may use outside agencies to help deliver the drug education programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Headteacher has given approval for the use of the outside agency
- DBS disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education, in line with our Visitors In School policy.

Links with Parents, the Community and the Police

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and to discuss drug issues with their child whenever possible. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents.

Parkland Primary School has developed good working relationships with the local police. This helps to ensure that if a drug-related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

Medicines are administered in line with our Medicines policy.

The Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. Their role includes:

- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance found in school
- Liaison with the appropriate authorities on any drug related incident
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- The induction of new staff as appropriate
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents

Monitoring and Evaluating

The school drug education policy is periodically reviewed by staff and governors, to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drugs use. The programmes of study for drug education are continually

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reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented. The induction of new staff will include introduction to this policy. The policy is available to parents if requested.

Reviewed: March 2018

Date to be reviewed February 2021