



Drugs Education

Berkeley Primary School

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Berkeley Primary School Drugs Education Policy



Berkeley Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its staff and pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We recognise the increasing drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore vitally important. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Purpose of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

Key roles and responsibilities

Headteacher: Anna Cvijetic

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Helen Earl

PSHE Coordinator: Faye Marshall

Inclusive definition of drugs

We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Rationale

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

Boundaries, including relevance of the policy to school visits

The legal definition of premises of the school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles or any venue space managed by the school at the time of e.g. premises of a school trip or visit. The policy will also relate to pupils' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

DRUG EDUCATION

Context

This school believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life. We will provide all pupils with appropriate drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum.

Ethos



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Drug education in our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.

Curriculum Delivery

Teaching about drugs is generally best provided as part of an integrated programme of Personal, Social and Health Education across the key stages. This programme is relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible, and develops, as pupils grow older. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to talk openly and honestly. In both key Stages and Early Years we follow SCARF.

In order to effectively cover all aspects of drug education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed. The school aims to deliver this area of the curriculum through a variety of approaches including Circle Time, working in pairs and groups as well as whole class, brainstorming, use of drama and role play, use of puppets, use of stories, involvement of other organisations and visitors.

Key Stage 1 children are introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines. Key Stage 2 children are introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse;
- practise decision making skills;
- become aware of peer pressure;
- develop assertiveness skills;
- consider the consequences of risk taking;
- learn how to access sources of help and information;
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- evaluate media messages on drug use.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

Routine arrangements

• Medicines

The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety

• Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

• Tobacco

The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.

• Solvents



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The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols. (only exception permitted is aerosol ventolin / any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored in a locked medicine cupboard.)

• **Illegal drugs**

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

Incidents (also see Behaviour Policy)

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items on school premises;
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises;
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises;
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use;
- Rumours or reports of drug possession, supply or drug use.

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The School's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the wellbeing of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.