

# **Bullion Lane Primary School**

## **Drugs Policy**

### **Introduction**

Bullion Lane Primary School believes there should be a whole school approach to drugs and alcohol awareness and education.

### **Definition**

Drugs are those that are legal such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs as well as illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

Our school believes that the possession and use of unauthorised drugs within school grounds and/or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits.

Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who are required to take prescribed medication during the course of the school day and routines are detailed in the Medicines Policy.

### **Scope**

This statement of policy relates to all pupils, staff, parents and governors of Bullion Lane Primary School. The age range of our pupils from 3 – 11 represents a significant change in the development and attitudes of the child and this must be acknowledged in the creation of this policy and subsequent developments to the approach in implementing drugs and alcohol education strategies.

### **Entitlement**

#### **Children**

All children are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum reflecting the school ethos and values. The delivery of drugs and alcohol awareness education should take place through active learning using a wide-range of teaching approaches to accommodate the different learning styles.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All pupils are given equal opportunities to participate in a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum regardless of class, gender or ethnicity. Our approach to drugs and alcohol awareness education aims to ensure equal access for children of all physical, emotional and academic abilities.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

Pupils with special educational needs (SEND) have equality of access to this programme through a suitably differentiated curriculum with appropriate support and in accordance with the school's SEND policy. This will include those pupils who have been identified as being gifted and talented who will be extended with additional and more demanding activities.

## **Parents and Governors**

Parents and governors are entitled to know that the non-statutory requirements for PSHCE and drugs education are being met for the pupils of this school via the implementation of the policy and guidelines. Parents will be regularly informed of their child's progress and achievements in all aspects of PSHCE through parent's evenings and annual written reports.

## **Principles**

- ❖ The policy and provision are evaluated and reviewed regularly.
- ❖ Resources of time, people and equipment are planned, budgeted for and detailed when appropriate on the School Management Plan.
- ❖ The governing body of this school discharge their statutory responsibility with regard to PSHCE.
- ❖ Planning of all strands of PSHCE ensures continuity and progression across all year groups and key stages.

## **Staff with Key Responsibility**

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for drug issues within the school and the management of drug and alcohol related incidents. The subject coordinators are responsible for overseeing the planning and coordination of drug and alcohol education.

## **Aims of Drug Education**

Drug Education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to:

- ◆ minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use;
- ◆ delay the age of onset of first use;
- ◆ reduce the harm caused by drugs;
- ◆ enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

By increasing pupils' understanding and clarifying misconceptions, drug and alcohol education should improve knowledge of:

- ◆ The short and long-term effects and risks of drugs;
- ◆ The rules and laws relating to drugs;
- ◆ The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities;
- ◆ The prevalence and unacceptability of drug use among peers;
- ◆ The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs;
- ◆ How to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy by assessing and managing risk, resisting pressure, finding help and advice and devising problem-solving and coping strategies.

Drugs education may in some circumstances be taught discreetly whilst at other times class teachers may feel it more appropriate to deal with issues in a cross-curricular way.

## **Staff Support and Training**

Continuing professional development will be carried out as and when directed in line with needs of the School Improvement Plan.

## **Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Assessment is regarded as an integral part of teaching and learning and is an ongoing process. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to assess all pupils in their class in accordance with the school's assessment policy. This policy and the accompanying scheme of work will be monitored for its effectiveness and will be updated and reviewed regularly.

## **Role of Subject Leader**

The leader of this subject will:

- Ensure continuity and progression from year to year.
- Provide all members of staff with a scheme of work to show how the aims are to be achieved and how all aspects of drug and alcohol awareness can be delivered.
- Advise and support colleagues in the implementation of the scheme of work.
- Assist with the requisition and maintenance of resources required for the teaching of the scheme of work.
- Monitor planning.

## **Role of Class Teacher**

The class teacher will:

- Ensure progression in the acquisition of skills.
- Develop and update their skills, knowledge and understanding of this subject.
- Plan effectively in teams.
- Report to parents.

## **Role of the Governors**

Governors have a key role to play in the development and implementation of the school's Drug and Alcohol Education Policy.

## **Management of Drug Related Incidents**

Drug related incidents could include the following:

- ◆ Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the school premises.
- ◆ A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age or peer group.
- ◆ A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia.
- ◆ A pupil, staff member or parent/carer is thought to be under the influence of drugs.
- ◆ A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area.
- ◆ A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

## **The role of the police**

Should any illegal drugs be found on school grounds the headteacher will in most circumstances:

- ◆ inform the local police and seek advice as to its disposal. In accordance with local practice, the incident will normally be managed in school where there is concern for the safety and well-being of a pupil in the home environment. Other agencies may be informed.
- ◆ Consult police where there is no immediate danger to children but in circumstances which suggest abuse and misuse within the school.
- ◆ Ensure that police are actively involved where there are serious concerns for the safety and well-being of the school community as a whole as well as individuals; it is believed that drugs are concealed on a pupil and they refuse to produce them.

The headteacher has the right to withhold individual's names from the police if he feels that there is a strong reason for doing so for protection and care.

The school and governors realise that there may be incidents when the police need to take action irrespective of agreed protocols or the wishes of the school. Wherever possible first contact will be made with the Schools Liaison Officer who may also be used as an external contributor dealing with drugs education.

### **Taking possession of and disposal of suspected illegal drugs**

The headteacher or his agreed representative may take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take care of it. Under no circumstances should staff take any suspected substance to the police, preferably they should immediately be called to the school.

When taking temporary possession of suspected illegal drugs, nominated staff are advised to:

- ◆ Ensure that a second adult is present
- ◆ Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include in written form the date and time of the seizure and who was present.
- ◆ Store it in a secure location with limited access.
- ◆ Without delay, notify the police who will be asked to come and collect the substance.
- ◆ Record details of the incident including any police reference number.
- ◆ Inform parents/carers unless it is felt that this would jeopardise the safety of the child.

On school trips the senior member of staff will act as above ensuring that the Head Teacher or his representative is informed immediately.

### **Alcohol and tobacco**

Parents/Carers should normally be informed and given the opportunity to collect the alcohol or tobacco, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the child.

## **Disposal of drug paraphernalia**

Needles or syringes found on school premises should be placed in a sturdy, secure container with a lid using gloves. Liaison should be made with the LEA for the best method for their disposal.

## **Dealing with the Media**

This will be the exclusive role of the Head Teacher (or Deputy if the Head is unavailable) having consulted first with the Local Authority press office.

## **Parents/Carers who are intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.**

- ◆ The person will be asked to leave the premises by the Head or Deputy Head Teacher.
- ◆ Should they become obstructive the police may be called.
- ◆ If they planned to collect a child, consideration will be given to calling another family member or in extreme circumstances Social Services may be contacted. If circumstances dictate and no other responsible adult is available, Social Services will be called immediately.

## **Record of Incidents**

The Head Teacher or agreed member of staff will ensure that composite records are kept of all drug and alcohol related incidents that occur on the school grounds or trips

## **External Contributors:**

Class teachers should always retain responsibility for the class. External contributors will not be used to address the whole drug and alcohol education scheme of work but will be used to add an extra dimension to the teacher. Any visitor who has unsupervised access to children will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. Whether an external contributor is CRB checked or not, the policy of this school is that the class teacher will be present throughout in order to maintain discipline as well as devising follow-up work to reinforce pupils' learning.

**Monitoring & Evaluation Comments**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Chair Of Governors)**