

# BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Drugs Policy

### RATIONALE

*"Drug misuse is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Drug education enables pupils to make healthy informed choices."* HMSO 1995

At Brize Norton Primary School we acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of the whole school community. This means we have concerns for the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community. As a school we are aware of the increase in the availability of a range of substances and the need for a clear, consistent and balanced approach to drug education and incident management which reflects our school mission statement. We believe that preparing children for the opportunities and challenges of adult life will include education about the use of drugs and action to safeguard their wellbeing.

Drug education is part of the programme for the National Healthy School Status and part of our PSHCE programme.

What do we mean by Drugs?

A drug is any substance, taken into the body, which alters behaviour or the way in which the body functions, either physically, emotionally or mentally. This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication (see DfEE Supporting Pupils with medical needs - good practice guide) legally available drugs and substances such as alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy and heroin.

### OVERALL AIM

To provide a framework for effective drug education and for dealing with drug related incidents within the school environment. We recognise that we are only one component of our children's education and that family, community and social groups all have a contribution to make to drug education.

### DRUG EDUCATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

*"The essential aim should be to give pupils the facts, emphasize the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and give young people the knowledge and skills to make informed choices now and in later life."* Drug Prevention and Schools (1998)

The main aims of our drug education are:

- To enhance children's decision making skills to enable children to make positive healthy choices.
- To raise pupils awareness of the world of drugs so they can make informed decisions about their own drug use.
- To enable pupils to explore their own and other's feelings, views, attitudes and values towards drugs and drug issues.
- To help the children to distinguish between different drug substances and consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To recognise medicines are drugs and can help people but that misuse can be harmful to health.
- To encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into the body.
- To create a climate where a child feels comfortable to discuss his/her or family drug use.
- To correct any misconceptions about the effects of drugs.

- To enable each pupil to develop confidence and self esteem.
- To support those pupils/families, where appropriate, who come to the attention of the school, that need help with a problem, and to make them aware of the advice and support offered by local and national agencies.

## **ORGANISATION**

Drug Education is taught as a specific programme. The "home" of drug education is within the school PSHE programme and the statutory elements of the National Science Curriculum. The National Curriculum Science Order states that:

- At Key Stage 1 pupils should be taught about the use of drugs as medicines.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught to relate their understanding of science to their personal health and that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

## **TEACHING PROGRAMME, STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES**

Drug Education is delivered by the class teacher in whole class or group situations using a variety of teaching and learning strategies to encompass the broad aims of the PSHE curriculum and the National Curriculum Science Order. It is also taught within other curriculum areas for example Science, RE and specific health promotion events. Each year we are also visited by the Thames Valley Life Education Centre, a mobile teaching resource.

Our teaching strategies are aimed at enabling the children to practice and develop their skills of negotiation, decision-making, assertiveness, research, problem solving and collaboration. They are given a range of opportunities to explore and develop their own attitudes and values, engaging in discussions, challenging stereotypes and considering evidence.

We aim to create a classroom atmosphere in which the children feel comfortable and trusted and able to contribute; where they can feel supported and support each other as they express their feelings. Where the teaching and learning includes issues which may be sensitive, staff and pupils will work within clearly understood and applied ground-rules. Discussion time is also used to support drug education, especially in the developing of self-esteem and equipping children with skills for life.

### **Resources**

Most resources for drug education are kept on the shelves in the resource cupboard and some in individual classrooms. The resources were purchased after careful consideration and evaluation of the materials in line with national guidelines and aims of this policy.

### **USE OF VISITORS AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

Where visitors and outside agencies are involved, their contribution must have been planned as part of an overall programme of Drug Education. Their contribution should complement the teaching already taking place in the school. The content of visitor sessions is shared with parents/carers before lessons take place and opportunities are given for parents to raise any questions regarding the programme.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND PASTORAL ISSUES**

If a child discloses information relating to misuse of drugs, in certain circumstances, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The current advice from the DFES is that teachers "can offer no guarantee of confidentiality".

Therefore staff should not offer absolute confidentiality to children as they are obliged to share information relating to abuse in line with child protection procedures and children should be made aware of this. There is no legal requirement for staff to disclose information

relating to pupil drug use, however, parents will be contacted as they have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in the potential harm of their child. Other agencies may be involved where appropriate.

Staff should be aware that failure to take action, or allowing drug use to continue on school premises, could contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Any such disclosures should be reported to the Head Teacher.

### **DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE RELATED INCIDENTS**

Any incidents involving drugs require a measured and sensitive response. Therefore, establish, and be clear about the nature of the incident before deciding upon any course of action.

#### **What to do in the event of finding a drug or suspected illegal substance**

Take possession of the drug/substance and inform the Head Teacher.

Inform parents/carers, police and other agencies (if this is appropriate) and provide the pupil with the appropriate support if needed.

Record the incident.

In the presence of a witness the article should be packed securely and labelled with the date, time and place of discovery.

The package should be signed by the person who discovered it and stored in a secure place – Head Teacher's office.

Arrangements should be made to hand the package over to police. Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste any found substance.

In the event of discovering a hypodermic needle the incident should be recorded and the following procedure should be followed in order to protect all persons:

1. Do NOT attempt to pick up the needle.
2. Cover the needle with a bucket or other container.
3. If possible, cordon off the area to make it safe.
4. Inform the Head Teacher.
5. Contact Environmental Health.

#### **What to do in the event of finding or suspecting a pupil is in possession of a drug**

Request that the pupil hand over the article(s).

Having taken possession of the substance/paraphernalia, the procedure should be followed as above.

### **EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES ARE INVOLVED**

If a pupil refuses to hand over articles a search may be required – it should be noted that: Teachers can search school property, i.e. cupboards and trays without permission but teachers should not search pupils or personal possessions. An enforced search by staff could be interpreted as an assault.

#### **Procedures for dealing with a child suspected to be under the influence of a drug or substance:**

Stay calm, place child in a quiet area, do not leave on their own, seek medical advice, place in recovery position, loosen tight clothing, attempt to establish what the child has taken. Any suspected substances should travel with child if removed for treatment. Vomit should be safely collected where possible and also taken with the child (for analysis).

#### **When to contact police**

There is no legal obligation for the school to contact the police when a drug incident or offence has been discovered. Contacting the police is at the Headteacher's discretion.

However, the school has established close liaisons with the local police and any information about illegal sales of drugs including alcohol and tobacco will be reported to them. In the event of a drug-related incident in the school, the school would co-operate with the police should they wish to search premises. However, the LEA will be informed. A member of staff will accompany any search and any damage will be noted.

In the event of a serious incident the police may request to interview pupil(s).

Parent(s) must be notified. They may refuse to give consent or prefer the interview to take place in their own home, in which case the police will make arrangements. Parents may give authority to a responsible adult, e.g. a teacher to be present during the interview.

### **Dealing with the Media**

If there has been a drug related incident, the LEA will be informed. Advice will be given by the LEA on dealing with enquiries from the media in order to protect the interests of the child and the school.

### **WHERE DOES THE POLICY APPLY?**

This policy applies at all times when staff are acting in loco parentis this includes educational visits. The policy also applies to pupils during break and lunchtimes. It also affects the use of school premises after normal school hours.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **GOVERNORS**

As part of their general responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors have monitored the school's policy for drug education. They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of it.

#### **HEAD TEACHER**

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy, its implementation, and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies in the event of a drug-related incident. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from relevant agencies such as Child Protection Officers.

#### **PSHE CO-ORDINATOR**

The co-ordinator, together with the head teacher, has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. The PSHE co-ordinator will provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to drug education. The head teacher or co-ordinator, is the first point of contact for advice/support in dealing with a drug-related incident.

#### **PARENTS**

Parents are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme and have access to this policy. They are responsible for ensuring that guidelines relating to medication in school are followed (separate policy). If a child needs to take any form of medication during the school day, a signed letter from the parent(s)/guardian(s) must be present, explaining dosage and length of time the medication is to be administered for. (See medicines policy). The school plays its part in ensuring that parents have up-to-date information regarding drugs. Parents have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in potential harm to their child.

This can be a very sensitive issue for parents, and therefore, it will be handled with care and consideration.

**ALL STAFF**

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and nonteaching, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them should they be called upon to deal with a drug-related incident. This includes lunchtime supervisors and caretaker. If they have any queries or training requirements these should be made known to the head teacher.

**CARETAKER**

The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any substances or drug paraphernalia found will be reported to the head teacher and dealt with in accordance with this policy. The school Behavioural Policy and Health and Safety Policy support this policy.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY**

A copy of this policy is provided for each member of staff and the governing body. Reference copies are available from the Head Teacher for all other persons who come into contact with the children. It is also available on the school website.

Date policy was updated: 10/06/2010

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE POLICY**

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Governors, Head Teacher, and PSHE Co-ordinator.