



Fleet Primary School

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Drug Education Policy

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1. The Need for a Policy

The school believes that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognises that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. The DfE advises that all schools have an up-to-date drug education policy. We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give information about what is taught and how it is taught in drug education
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education

2. Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies; PSHE and Citizenship, Science, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Safeguarding, Administration of Medicines and documentation relating to maintaining healthy school status.

3. A Definition of Drugs

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". This is also used by the DfES in its drugs guidance and Camden School Improvement Service. This refers to all drugs:

- Legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and poppers
- Over the counter and prescription medicines
- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD
- and other drugs such as anabolic steroids, volatile substances (solvents), Ketamine and Khat and psychoactive drugs ("legal highs")

4. Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

5. Drug Education and Drug Prevention

We aim to give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and medicines We also believe it is important for pupils to have opportunities to discuss attitudes and build skills to resist peer group pressure in relation to drug use. We believe that a positive and open school ethos helps children to feel valued as part of the school community as well as fostering positive self-images which may help pupils cope better in situations involving drug abuse.

Our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

6. Where is it taught and how?

The statutory elements of drug education are taught through science with additional and complimentary aspects taught through the PSHE curriculum. Opportunities also arise for the drug education to be incorporated in literacy, for example, as a subject for persuasive writing.

The teaching programme ensures there is learning progression with topics and issues being included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of the children:

- Key Stage 1 focuses on medicines and how to be safe, being ill and getting better, being safe with household substances and risks.
- Key Stage 2 focuses on the effects and risks of smoking and alcohol, resisting pressure to do wrong and making safe decisions. In science pupils must be taught about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health

This content reflects:

- the statutory elements of the Science National curriculum
- aspects of the non-statutory framework for PSHE and citizenship

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The PSHE and science subject leaders and the headteacher are responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluating of the teaching of drug education within the two subject frameworks.

8. Training for staff

The school takes advantage of support, advice and training provided by the local authority as well as external providers as required.

9. Working with parents and carers

Parents/carers are informed when drug education will be taught through the termly class topic letter and are welcome to meet with the class teacher if they have any concerns.

10. Confidentiality

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, if a child makes any concerning disclosure regarding drugs during a drug education session (or at any other time while at school) teachers will inform the Head teacher immediately.