

Littledean Church of England Primary School

Drug Management and Education Policy

Littledean C of E Primary School is committed to the health and safety of the school community and will take action to ensure their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, tobacco, glue and solvents and the misuse of prescribed and over the counter medication and alcohol.

It is our aim to help all children to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide of drugs exist. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has the potential to cause harm. Through drug education in this school in this school we aim to:

- clarify the legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations through the provision of accurate information;
- support all members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency;
- develop a whole school approach to drug education within the context of the curriculum;
- create an environment where children feel able to explore and discuss drug related issues;
- enable children to identify sources of appropriate personal support if needed.

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 that our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Organisation of Drug Education

We will provide children with drug education as an integral part of our PHSCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) curriculum.

Key Stage 1 – Through science and PHSCE children will be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.

Key Stage 2 – Through science and PHSCE children will be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They will be introduced to become aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Children will also be given opportunities to:

- Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- Practice decision making skills.
- Become aware of peer pressure.
- Develop assertiveness skills.
- Consider the consequences of risk taking behaviours.
- Learn how to access sources of help and information.

- Emphasis the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- Evaluate media messages on drug use.

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme such as the School Beat Office PC Greg Steer.

Management of Drugs at School

Medicines – The school has a policy and 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 except by the permission of the Head Teacher. Any adults under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the school site for the safety of the whole school.

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

Solvents – The school will ensure that any potentially hazardous substances are stored safely. Children 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 away from children).

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

Drug Related Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

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

Guiding Principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regards 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 Head Teacher will be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering support and liaising with outside agencies.

Procedures

Medical Emergencies - If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. An ambulance will be called if needed.

Hearsay/Rumour - Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Head Teacher who should record the matter as hearsay evidence on My Concern where it will be possible to compile a record of whether there is a pattern of concerns.

Suspicious Behaviour – Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged on My Concern so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and acted upon where necessary.

Finding Substances – If a substance or equipment, thought to be illegal or harmful, is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a child the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded, including:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval.
- The size and appearance of the substance.
- The names of those concerned.
- The action taken.

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of items such as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure, rigid container for collection by an appropriate person. If these are found on a child, the parents should be informed.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Head Teacher, or their representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named child if this applies. Staff should not search a child's property or person but should try to persuade the child to voluntarily produce the substance by asking them to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a child a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there is reasonable grounds to suspect a child is in possession of an illegal substance.

Finding Drugs

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

Supply of Illegal Substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Returning of articles which have been confiscated

Articles confiscated and not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for collection or the articles will be disposed of by the school.

Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a child. The safety and wellbeing of a child will be paramount in all decision made about how to address concerns and what action to take.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Administering Medicines

Asthma

Behaviour Management

First Aid

Health and Safety

Managing Aggressive Behaviour

Safeguarding / Child Protection

Whistleblowing

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