

Littledean Church of England Primary School
Drug Education Policy
'People with time for Children'

Introduction

At Littledean C of E Primary School we believe that the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable children to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is of vital importance.

The term 'drug' throughout this document, includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

Whilst Personal, Health, Social, Citizenship and Economic Education (PHSCE) remains a non-statutory subject, section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework document states that 'All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.'

In spite of this flexibility, all schools have statutory duties to meet, section 2.1 of the National Curriculum states that 'Every state funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society;
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.'

This policy applies to the school premises, day trips and residential visits.

Aims

At Littledean C of E Primary School we believe that the essential aim of drug education should be to give children the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- promote children's self-esteem and confidence;
- give accurate information about drugs;
- consider and/or challenge attitudes children may have regarding drug use and misuse;
- provide opportunities for children to be equipped with, and practice the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs;
- help children to distinguish between different drugs, consider their misuse benefits and harm;
- minimise the harm from drugs to children.

Curriculum Organisation and Planning

Drug Education will be delivered through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches, through discrete curriculum time and also through other subject areas.

In Key Stage 1 the children learn about:

- safe use of medicines and other substances;
- taking responsibility for themselves
- illness, wellness and balance;

In Key Stage 2 the children learn about:

- illness, well-being and balance;
- alcohol and tobacco;
- drugs and their uses, including medical drugs;
- legal and illegal drugs;
- drugs and the law;
- effects and risks of drugs;
- hazards in the home.

Resources

We use the Gloucestershire PSHCE and Safeguarding Curriculum to teach the PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic curriculum) throughout the school. The specific resource used is the PINK curriculum (People in the Know) from which each class has a two year rolling programme of areas to cover. Within this two year programme, clear provision is made for the teaching of drug education in each class.

We receive an annual visit from the 'Life Bus' which each class visit and are able to access information about a range of topics including drug education.

The children in Year 6 annually attend Skill Zone, where they learn about hazards in the home and other issues related to drug education.

Partnerships

We value our work in partnership with parents, carers and the wider school community and see this as an essential element of the provision of our drug education programme. We work closely with outside agencies when necessary to ensure that we have an up-to-date understanding of the issues surrounding drug education and so that we can signpost children and families to specific support services that are available.

Equal Opportunities

At Littledean C of E Primary School we are committed to Equal Opportunities and this will be built into all aspects of drug education. We recognise that some children may need more help than others to understand what sorts of behaviour are/are not acceptable. Where children are taking prescribed medication they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

We recognise that drug related incidents in a primary school are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. In all cases the Head Teacher should be informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

Sanctions and Support

The Head Teacher will be responsible for deciding how to discipline a child following any drug related incident, in accordance with the school Behaviour Policy. All factors influencing the incident will be taken into account. Exclusion may be appropriate in rare and serious cases. The Family Support Worker will make contact with the family connected to the incident and provide support, advice and signposting to relevant support agencies. The school will follow the Child Protection procedures outlined within the Child Protection Policy at all times. All incidents will be recorded by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Confiscating an Illegal Drug and its Disposal

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our children from harm.

If we suspect a child is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the child to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the child refuses, the Head Teacher may decide to contact parents and/or the Police. We will always inform parents if the police are called to an incident.

Any confiscated drugs will be locked in the School Business Manager's office until they can be handed over to the Police. We will keep a written record of all actions taken related to the incident along with timings.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Provision for drug education will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and Class Teachers. This will be done by checking that the whole school drug education objectives, outlined in the long term plan for PHSCE, are met; that standards of teaching and learning are at least good and that there are adequate resources for the teaching of drug education.

Written: January 2017

Approval by Governors: 17th January 2017