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Drug Education Policy

(Incorporating Managing Drug Related Incidents)

Rationale

It is assumed that the majority of young people of school age have never used illegal or non-prescribed drugs. Most will, at some time, be occasional users of medicinal drugs. It is our duty to inform pupils about non-prescribed legal and illegal drugs to enable them to make healthy informed choices. The school serves a diverse community, where drug use and misuse is an important issue.

Definition of key terms

In the following policy, these terms are used in relation to drugs:

- A drug substance that people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.
- The term 'drugs' is used to refer to ALL drugs:
- Illegal drugs (controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- Legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances;
- All 'over the counter' and prescription medicines;
- Drug misuse is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems relating to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

Statement

A teacher of drug education does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach which is crucial to this area of learning.

Successful drug education should start early: the key to which is developing pupils' life skills.

This policy applies to all pupils, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members attending the school or whilst on school business including off-site visits or trips.

Principles

- Hudson Road Primary School is committed to Health and Safety and believes parents, carers and extended families have a duty to support and safeguard the well-being of all its pupils and staff.
- Education about drugs should involve the development of attitudes, values and skill, as much as the acquisition of appropriate knowledge.

Aims for Drugs Education

- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop.
- To encourage and enable pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now and in the future.
- To widen the understanding about health and social issues in relation to drugs education.
- To enable pupils to make reasoned, informed choices, by providing them with accurate and reliable information.
- To minimise pupils experimentation with illegal or harm causing substances.
- To support and engage parents/carers and pupils in their own personal learning and responsibilities.
- To enable young people and staff to access support structures.
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for pupils.
- To work with outside agencies, including the voluntary sector, to secure and support a balanced delivery of a drugs education programme.
- To support children to say 'No' to peer pressure.

Principles of Teaching and Learning

The school teaches drugs education through its own active PSHE programme. The school follows the National Curriculum for PSHE, which is then appropriately adapted by teachers and teaching assistants to suit the needs of our children. The framework for drugs education is part of the school's long term PSHE curriculum plan.

Differentiation and Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Whilst some pupils may have a fairly broad knowledge and insight into the world of drugs, there are those who will have little or no knowledge at all. Teachers need to be sensitive to this issue and lessons are planned to take account of the pupil's age, culture, experience and maturity. The needs of pupils with SEN will be taken into account by the teacher who may need to provide different resources, different activities or specific support.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

Our First concern in managing drugs is health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of our pupils. If any drug related incidents should occur, the safety and well-being of the child will always be the overriding concern.

- All medicines that are brought into school by parents/carers for pupils will be dealt with in accordance with the **Whole School Medicine and Managing Medications Policy**.
- Careful attention is given to recording all relevant information of any incident. Each situation will be dealt with on its merits.

- If a substance is found on the school grounds then it will be brought to the attention of the Headteacher or in their absence the Deputy Headteacher. The substance will be safely removed or locked in a safe place away from other children. Where it is suspected that substances are on the premises details regarding those involved will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer as appropriate.
- Encourage children to tell an adult if they find a substance in the wider community.
- If a pupil is discovered or is suspected of using or possessing a substance, including alcohol or tobacco, the following action will be taken (in line with the Child Protection Policy):
 1. The substance will be confiscated in the presence of 2 adults.
 2. The substance will be labelled, dated and locked in a safe place. Only legal drugs will be returned to parents/carers.
 3. The pupil's parents/carers will be contacted.
 4. Details of the discussion between the Headteacher and parents/carers will be recorded on CPOMS (in line with the Child Protection Policy).

Parents/Carers under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises

Staff will refuse to hand over a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent/carer, particularly when the parent/carer intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement for example asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent/carer repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes violent or abusive, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures (see Child Protection Policy) and possibly the involvement of the police.