



Drugs Policy

October 2018

Review date: October 2019

DRUGS POLICY

Lowerplace Primary School believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure children's health and safety whilst in our care and also strive to promote their personal and social well-being. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

This policy focuses on how drugs education will be implemented and developed within the school curriculum, and outlines roles, responsibilities and legal duties of staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues.

Rationale

Lowerplace recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture, which exists. Young children are exposed to messages about drug use from an early age (e.g. media messages often glamorising drug use). It is possible they have seen family members smoking, drinking and taking pills or medicines. Some children within our school may have already tried alcohol or cigarettes and taken prescribed medicines or drugs.

Our school promotes the development of the 'whole person', which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge and values to handle lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood. As such, drug education should form an integral part of the school curriculum.

Substances covered by this policy are:

- Volatile (inhalable) substances (e.g. petrol, aerosols, poppers)
- Over the counter medicines (e.g. paracetamol or cough medicines)
- Prescription medicines (e.g. antibiotics, amphetamines, anabolic steroids)
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Other legal drugs (e.g. caffeine which may produce hyperactivity in some children)
- Illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis, heroin, cocaine, magic mushrooms)

Policy Statements

Tobacco – In line with all RMBC buildings, Lowerplace Primary School is a non-smoking environment.

Alcohol – Alcohol is not allowed on school premises at any time during school hours, during term time. In the event of a social event being organised (e.g. fund raising event), alcohol may be permitted with prior consent from the senior leadership team.

Medicines – Lowerplace Primary School follows the LEA guidelines on the management of medicines in school. Separate policies are in place providing further guidance on this - Administration of Medicines Policy and Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy.

Illegal, Illicit Drugs and Solvents – Lowerplace will not condone the use, misuse, preparation or supply of any illegal, illicit or legal substance, which is likely to damage health, on any part of the school premises by any member of the school community.

Aims and objectives of the drug education programme

Drug education will be delivered as part of the wider PHSCE programme of study with well-defined links to National Curriculum Science. We will provide a range of opportunities for pupils to develop attitudes, values, skills and knowledge to help them to:

- improve self-esteem and develop self confidence
- make informed choices and decisions
- develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- recognise personal skills and qualities within themselves and others
- maintain and develop relationships
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- develop the motivation to succeed
- develop age appropriate knowledge on all types of substances.

Management of drug related incidents

Role and responsibilities

The drug coordinator is the Head Teacher. In the event of the Head Teacher being off the premises members of the Leadership team will deputise. The designated governor with responsibility for drug issues is the Chair of Governors.

Confidentiality

Staff and pupils are made aware of the confidentiality policy in relation to drug incidents, being reminded that confidentiality in these situations cannot be guaranteed as disclosures may be required.

Child involvement

If a child is suspected of, or is involved in an incident involving substances (including tobacco, alcohol or illicit or illegal substances) the school, after a full assessment has taken place, will make a decision with regard to support and possible sanctions. In all cases of suspected substance misuse (by child or family / carers), the health and safety of the pupil is of paramount importance. If there is any doubt about a pupil's well-being, emergency procedures will be instigated immediately. Once the pupil's immediate needs have been addressed, the drug co-ordinator will make full assessment of the situation and coordinate a response in liaison with other school staff if required. The school will work with other agencies to support pupils and parents/carers who have drug related issues.

Contacting parents

In the event of a pupil being involved in a drug related incident, parents will normally be contacted immediately. However, if the school considers a child to be 'at risk' as a result of a disclosure, the appropriate outside agency will be involved.

Review of Policy

Headteacher: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Policy to be reviewed: October 2019