



Oakthorpe Primary School

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

April 2019

Members of Staff Responsible: P.S.H.E. Co-ordinator, Head Teacher, SENCO

Educational Aims

At Oakthorpe we believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To provide pupils with accurate information about substances so dispelling myths
- To explore the benefits of healthy lifestyles and the role of drug education within this context
- To develop personal and social skills such as communication, assertiveness and decision making
- To develop and enhance self esteem
- To increase an understanding of the difference between legal and illegal drugs and the implications of their use
- To identify sources of appropriate support, e.g. school nurse

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the substance misuse programme in the taught curriculum and the informal curriculum. We deliver in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHE, Science and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme.

Drugs Education Programme within Science

Statutory: The National Curriculum Science Order requires the following elements of drug education to be taught:

- At Key Stage 1: 5-7 year old pupils should be taught about the role of Drugs as medicines
- At Key Stage 2: 7-11 year old pupils should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

Drugs Education Programme within PSHE

The National Curriculum lists guidelines on teaching Drug Education through PSHE. (See PSHE policy). We use these guidelines alongside the Science elements to teach a drugs education programme. Below shows what each year group is covering. This is taught through Science, Literacy, ICT, PE, PSHE or Circle Time.

Year Groups	Objectives – Drug Education
Reception	Understand concept of medicines Knowing practising simple, safety rules regarding medicines
Year One	Understand School rules relating to medicines Understand who gives us medicines and why we take them Going to the hospital
Year Two	Medicines can be harmful if not used correctly - risk Hazardous substances – understanding that some things we put into our bodies can harm us To know and understand the roles of different health professionals. Emergency services – when and how they can help us
Year Three	To understand school rules relating to taking medicines. Smoking – how it affects people, the effects on the body and passive smoking. Know the rules and laws to prevent smoking How to make positive choice not to smoke
Year Four	To understand peer influence/peer pressure. How do we deal with people who try to persuade us? To distinguish between good habits and bad habits Effects of alcohol- what it is and how it affects the body in different ways Risks linked to drinking alcohol Laws about drinking alcohol
Year Five	Legal and illegal drugs. Understand the effects and risks of illegal drugs Challenge myths about drug use Peer pressure – how to resist, how to make judgements about risks, the relationships between risk and ‘dare’
Year Six	School rules relating to medicines. Cannabis- effects on your health and life Volatile substance abuse and the effects of it How to get help, advise and support To develop decision making and assertiveness skills. Stress – Strategies to reduce and manage stress

A wide variety of teaching approaches will be used to deliver this programme. These approaches will be consistent with the aims of the PSHE programme and will ensure a balanced programme, which enhances knowledge, skills and attitudes.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Confidentiality

It is not realistic to guarantee complete confidentiality to a pupil who may have problems with drugs.

The pupil should always be told what information is going to be passed on, and to whom.

If there is a risk of harm to the pupil or other people, teachers are obliged to inform the designated teacher.

If the law is being broken, the designated teacher is to be informed.

If a pupil becomes ill, medical or nursing staff need to know about all factors that may be relevant, including any suspicions of drug taking.

Pastoral Care and Support for Pupil at Risk

Oakthorpe school is aware of the range of specialised agencies, support and counselling services available in their area which may be in a position to support an at risk pupil. The Education Welfare Service, Local Health and Social Services, and the local police through the Police Youth and Community Section all have a role to play in supporting schools' efforts. Other agencies include: Release and the local Health Promotion Agency.

Recording of Incidents

A record will be kept of all substance misuse related incidents. This record will be anonymous and will be kept centrally by the school. This will be the responsibility of the designated teacher. This ensures close monitoring of the number of incidents occurring. It is for internal school use but may be forwarded to the LEA and Police for statistical purposes only.

No entry of an incident will be made on the child's record until the suspected substance is confirmed by the police as illegal, and there is sufficient evidence to warrant police action.

Where it has been so confirmed it is the responsibility of the designated teacher to notify the parents (or guardians) concerned that it will be recorded on the child's record.

Collecting Evidence

- The law permits school staff to take possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and committing the offence of possession.
- The substance should be handed to the police who will be able to identify if it is an illegal drug; school staff should not attempt to analyse or taste and unidentified substance.
- It is open to a member of staff to search a student's desk or locker where he or she has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items.
- Where pupils are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person, every effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances by, for example, asking them to turn out their pockets.
- Given the seriousness of this matter and the potential risk to health and safety of pupils, it is probably reasonable for the designated teacher, when interviewing a pupil, to ask that pupil to make his/her bag available for inspection.
- The teacher must be careful to ensure that there is no opportunity for allegations of assault or improper conduct to arise, and therefore, a witness should be in attendance at any interview.
- If the student refuses, the student should be detained under supervision while the police are called in to deal with the situation. A teacher should never make intimate physical searches. The powers to search by the police are clearly defined in law.

Dealing with the Media

When faced with media interest, it is important that the school seeks advice from the LEA press officer. When the police are involved their press office will also be informed and will liaise with the LEA press office and school. The point should be made that procedures outlined in the school policy and adopted by the governing body are being followed. The head teacher should not go into any details before contacting the chair of governors and parents of pupil(s) involved.

Working with Outside Agencies

Outside agencies will, at various times, be involved in the school with regard to substance misuse.

The following guidelines should be followed:

- Visits by outside agencies will be co-ordinated by the designated teacher, or where part of PSHE curriculum by PSHE co-ordinator, who will inform the designated teacher.
- Outside agencies working in schools should be sent a copy of the school policy, and expected to follow school procedures.

- Outside agencies will be invited to have input in the school curriculum provided that the input is educationally sound and supports the educational aims as described in this policy.

Dissemination of the Policy

All staff members, school nurse and governors will receive a copy of this policy. In addition copies will be available in the office and on the schools web page. The policy has been fully discussed in a governors meeting and a staff meeting.

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

- Assessment in Science.
- Staff evaluation.
- Planning of Drugs Education to be explicit if taught in other subjects.
- The policy will be reviewed as changes are required.