

Carlton Colville Primary School Drugs Policy

(see also Positive Behaviour; Health, Safety and Welfare; PSHE and Citizenship)

Supporting Children in Schools with Medical Conditions

Introduction

This policy uses guidance from the LA, guidance from the local Drug Action team and Drugs: (Guidance for Schools DfES/0092/2004.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs:

- all *illegal* drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971);
- all *legal* drugs, including alcohol and tobacco and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Carlton Colville Primary School statement

Carlton Colville Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to learn and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Responsibilities

The headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The governing body will:

- designate a governor with specific responsibility for drugs education (Mrs Jackie Holland);
- establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- support the headteacher in following these guidelines;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- follow health advice and Community Care Plans;
- establish our School Care Plans as necessary.

Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information and clear up misunderstandings;
- explore attitudes and values and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Drugs education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum but especially in Science, PHSE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in Circle Time.

Teaching about drugs begins in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about the importance of medicines and their safe handling and use.

In Key Stage 2 pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a hazardous to health and encourage them to consider its effects and risks.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes

towards drug abuse and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course we follow the DfES and LEA guidelines. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle. Learning Together sessions focus on drugs education in Years 2 and 4, involving discussion between children, parents and staff.

Drugs at school

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in the school office.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site.

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act, 1983. Occasionally, members of staff may consume limited amounts of alcoholic drinks in the staff room.

Drugs incidents

See Pyramid Policy (attached) – currently Sir John Lemman High School

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- ensure that the policy is available for parents to view at anytime;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- involve outside agencies if necessary

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will use their professional judgement in regard to discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and

safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent is considered to place a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff may activate Safeguarding procedures and possibly the involvement of the police (See Schools Code of Conduct).

Monitoring and review

The curriculum working party of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy regularly.

Reviewed: 21st June 2014

Next Review Date: June 2017