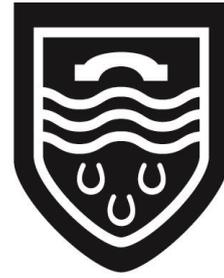


Ickleford
Primary School



Shared Values · Shared Aspirations · Shared Achievements

Drugs Education Policy

Date of Approval: 16th March 2015

Date of next review: March 2017

Introduction

This drugs policy addresses and encompasses all legal and illegal drugs, including medicines, alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances. In considering our approach to drug education the school has taken account of the general requirement in the Education Reform Act 1988: It helps prepare children for “the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.” The policy is consistent with the aims of Ickleford Primary School and the Equal Opportunities and safeguarding policies of Ickleford Primary School.

Ickleford Primary School does forbid the unauthorised use or supply of any drug, including alcohol and tobacco, by any member of the school. On special occasions, alcohol may be consumed on the school premises, by adults, with prior authorisation from the Headteacher.

Aim

The aim of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices about their lifestyle now and in teenage and adult life and to resist the use and misuse of drugs. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Parents are informed of our policy on use of medicines and our stance on the legal substances, e.g. no smoking on premises.

Objectives:

- to provide opportunities for pupils to begin to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse both illegal and legal;
- to increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking;
- to develop positive attitudes of independence, perseverance, self criticism and responsibility;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or other people misusing drugs;
- to ensure that *all* children are taught about drugs in an appropriate and consistent manner;

Context

Drug education will be provided in the broader context of the curriculum, or within discrete PSHE and citizenship time, including sex and relationship education.

Ground rules are negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work is recognised, thus safeguarding the interests of the individual child and the whole class.

It will take account of the age of the pupils, matched to their increasing experience and maturity.

Parents will be fully informed of the policy and it will be placed on the school website.

Confidentiality

While staff aim to be supportive, they work within child protection guidelines and may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff must be aware that whenever they interact with children they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour, and should act as role models.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team and Governors have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are fulfilled, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug related incidents.

Defining a Drug Related Incident

A drug related incident has been defined within the National DfES Guidance (2004) as follows:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the school premises;
- a pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate knowledge of drugs for their age;
- a pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia;
- a pupil is found to be supplying drugs on school premises;
- a pupil, parent/carer, staff member or any other person on school premises is thought to be under the influence of drugs;
- a staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area;
- a pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

Response to Drug Related Incidents

All incidents must be reported to the Headteacher.

Our definition of a drug includes medicines (both prescription and over the counter), alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and it is therefore important that all

aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by CSF and national guidance. (Ref: “*Drugs: Guidance for Schools*” DfES, February 2004).

The implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. **The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.**

If illegal or unauthorised drugs are found or suspected at the school, or if someone on the school premises is possibly under the influence of an unknown drug a set procedure will be followed, following Department for Education guidance (see Appendix 1).

Useful contacts:

Hertfordshire Drug Education Forum (DEF) www.hertsdef.org

Police: 0845 33 00 22

Nikki Williams – Community Police: 07795 825965

School nurse: 01462 427115 or 01462 427121

Environmental health Dept (NHDC) phone: 01462 474213

FRANK – national drug helpline phone: 0800 77 66 00

- website: www.talktofrank.com

Young People’s Substance Misuse and Crime

Reduction Team: 01438 219066

A-DASH: 01923 427288

Appendix 1

Procedures for dealing with a drug related incident in and out of school hours

Discovery of suspected substances or drug paraphernalia in the building or grounds during school hours.

Pupils know they must not touch sharp needles, syringes, etc if they find them on the site.

Staff discovering substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation should observe the following guidance.

- a) If possible, remove the suspected substance, wearing protective gloves, in the presence of a witness. Take it immediately to the Headteacher, or member of the senior leadership team. Inform the Police.
- b) Where it is confirmed that the substance is harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation the Headteacher will notify the parents or guardians of pupil(s) concerned and inform the Chairman of Governors.
- c) The Headteacher will confer with the appropriate agencies, including the local Police Liaison Officer as to what action should be taken next.

If the residue of drugs or the paraphernalia associated with them is found in the grounds out of school hours the following action will be taken.

- a) Follow procedures for a) above.
- b) Inform the local Police and take their advice.
- c) Inform the Chairman of Governors of the incident, advice given and action