



## Drugs Policy

This policy represents the agreed principles for the teaching of drugs education throughout the school. This policy has been agreed by governors within the school and all teachers representing the Foundation stage, Key stage 1 and Key stage 2.

(See also Behaviour and Discipline; Health and Safety; PSHE and Citizenship)

### School Aims

Our school community (children, staff, parents and governors) aims to:

- Learn and grow together within a safe, caring and happy environment;
- Continually encourage achievement in all aspects of school life;
- Motivate all children with a broad and challenging curriculum;
- Treat everyone with honesty and respect;
- Ensure opportunities for all.

### Introduction

In 2012, the DfES updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the LA, and guidance from the local Drug Action team.

### Aims and objectives

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, as well as the dangers of other substance abuse, 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.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.
- To 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, new psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

## **Shepherd Primary School statement**

Shepherd Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in school is not acceptable. We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work and learn and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to health and safety.

## **Organisation**

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. In science lessons, we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school’s personal, social, citizenship and health education (PSHCE) curriculum, through Health and Wellbeing, in age appropriate lessons to ensure the children have knowledge of how to keep themselves safe and remind them of what to do if they find or see drug/substance abuse. Children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this we follow the guidelines provided by the LEA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LEA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children’s class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time, plus specific workshops aimed at upper KS2. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in 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.

## **The role of the Headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher’s role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **The role of governors**

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

## **The role of parents**

Shepherd Primary 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 children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

## **Monitoring and review**

The curriculum committee of the governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The Teaching and Learning committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.