

Cowling Primary School

Rationale

We live in a world where drugs of all descriptions are available and accessible from medicines, tobacco and alcohol to substances, which are illegal. We recognise that the choices and decisions that individuals make about the role of any drugs in their lives result in consequences not only for themselves but also for families and the wider community.

Definition

By drugs we mean a substance people use to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term drug therefore includes:-

- Illegal Drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- Legal drugs including alcohol and tobacco
- Prescription and over the counter medicines

Links to other policies

- Behaviour Policy
- PSCH Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Visits Off-site Policy
- Conduct of staff Policy

Policy available for:-

- All school staff including ancillary staff
- Partner agencies visiting school
- School Governors
- Parents
- Pupils
- Contractors

Roles and Responsibilities

The Role of the Headteacher

- It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff 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 that work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- The headteacher will monitor this policy on a day-to-day basis and report to governors, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Role of the 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 children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

Stance

- We do not condone the abuse or misuse of drugs by any member of the school community nor the illegal supply of drugs (medicines, tobacco, alcohol and/or illegal substances).
- We are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our staff, visitors, parents and pupils and will act to promote these interests at all times. We will do this by a programme of drug education and by appropriately dealing with any drug-related incidents that may arise, in line with the relevant policy.
- The influence, which all adults have on young people, cannot be underestimated. Clear positive role models are encouraged and include:-
 1. No smoking on school premises.
 2. No smoking/drinking in front of pupils.
 3. No smoking on school transport.
 4. Ensuring that by reason of medication or other drug use we are not impaired in carrying out our responsibilities as parent/teachers or governors.

Aims

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 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.

Content

The drugs education programme will:-

- Provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful affects they can have on people's lives.
- Enable children to discuss moral questions relating to drug taking and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- Help children become more self confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives.
- Let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs and the laws and rules relating to this.
- Help children respect their bodies and, in doing so, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse/misuse.
- Show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue and that choices about drugs are moral choices.
- Enable pupils to explore their own and others attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring social and media influences.

Methodology and Resources

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education curriculum. In that context the drugs programme follows the National Curriculum Guidelines, advice from the LA and the schools PHSE policy. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately as they occur. In circle time sessions we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them and to ask questions, which enable them to reflect on the issues relating to drug misuse. We give children the opportunity to listen to the views of others, to talk in groups or with the whole class.

Training and Support for Staff

Training needs will be identified through Performance Management Reviews and these needs will be met through Strategy courses and INSET training, involving relevant external agencies.

Management of Drug-Related Incidents

All incidents need to be referred to the Child Protection Officer (Steven Smith - Headteacher)

- Every incident will be dealt with on its merits, taking into account the needs of the individual pupil and those of the wider school community.
- Medicines in school are kept in the school office in a locked cupboard. Staff are responsible for looking after medicines on school trips.
- Any suspected supply of a drug on or near to school premises will be reported to the police. The police will then have the responsibility of informing the parents.
- Any substance suspected of being an illegal drug will be placed in a bag, sealed and the bag will be locked in a secure place until it can be disposed of. This substance will then be handed to an authorised Police Officer.
- Vulnerable Pupils - see Inclusion file.
- External help is available
- Confidentiality - see Child Protection Policy

Review of Policy

The curriculum sub committee of the Governing Body will review this policy every 3 years. The policy will next be reviewed in the Autumn of 2014.