



Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School

Policy for Drugs Education and Drugs Management

This policy document aims at defining the School's agreed position in relation to drug-related matters. It is for the whole school community and all the school membership will be involved in implementing it and working within it. The teaching of Drugs Education at Calow Primary School, using an integrated and consistent approach, is an important aspect of pupils' education. The essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts, emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, and give young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices now and later in life.

The policy has been developed to ensure that staff and parents/carers are clear about the statutory requirements regarding Drugs Education and that the pupils receive their educational entitlement. Through implementation of this policy the School will meet specific aspects of the legal and statutory requirements.

Rationale

Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School has a duty for the care and welfare of its pupils and provides a drug education curriculum for all pupils as part of the health education within Personal, Social and Health Education and Science. The school aims to provide all pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to make informed choices about drugs. Pupils are made to feel valued with a positive self-image which may help them cope better in situations involving drug use.

Definition of Drugs

Drugs are any substances that when introduced into the body create a change in perception and/or mood and/or how the body functions. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquillisers and pain killers and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroin and other drugs young people may use.

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'.

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

The term 'Drugs' includes

- **All illegal drugs**
- **All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled**
- **All over-the-counter and prescription medicines**

Drug Education

Calow Primary School provides a drug education for all its pupils. It will be both cross-curricular and a discrete programme, usually through P.S.H.E, Citizenship. and Science. The pupils are taught about drugs in a spiral drug education curriculum from Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage Two. Drug, alcohol and tobacco education raises sensitive and controversial issues, as well as the potential for disclosure of private or illegal activity and issues of child protection. It is essential that a safe and secure learning environment is created, in which professional boundaries are clear, mutual respect is maintained and sensitive issues can be discussed.

Drugs Education in our School will:

- help pupils to gain an understanding of drugs and appropriate drug use.
- dispel myths.
- provide accurate information.
- clarify values and attitudes.

Aims

We aim to:

- raise pupils' self-esteem.
- enable pupils to make informed choices.
- help pupils manage personal, social and emotional development and change.
- develop pupils' personal and social skills.
- clarify values and attitudes.

Organisation and Management

The taught curriculum will be delivered to the pupils in P.S.H.E and Citizenship lessons by the class teacher. Aspects of Drug Education will be addressed in other curriculum areas, such as Science and Literacy. Individual pupil's questions are addressed as they arise.

In Key Stages One and Two a planned programme of drugs education will be delivered based upon the P.S.H.E, Citizenship and Science curriculum.

Children will be taught:

- What is safe to put into/onto the body and what substances can be harmful if not used properly
- That all medicines are drugs but that not all drugs are medicines
- The places that are safe, where to get help and the people in the community who can help them
- The rules for keeping safe at home and at school
- When to keep a secret and when to tell
- That they have rights over their own bodies
- That some people need drugs to live a normal life and that some drugs can prevent the development of diseases e.g. immunisation.

In addition, Year Five and Six children will be taught:

- About a range of legal drugs encountered in everyday life
- To have some understanding of the effects of legal drugs and any associated risks
- That some substances are illegal
- To have some understanding of the effects and consequences of illegal drugs and associated risks
- School rules/safety rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs
- That discarded syringes and needles can be dangerous.

Teaching should be supported by:

- School values and an ethos that have been developed by all members of the School community
- Positive relationships within the School and between the School and the wider community
- Whole-school policy and practice that is consistent with the aims of the drug, alcohol and tobacco programme.

Inclusion

Pupils with learning difficulties (S.E.N.D pupils) may need more help in understanding what sorts of behaviour are acceptable and in developing the confidence and skills to resist drugs. Teachers must take account of potential barriers to learning arising from pupils' personal circumstances, e.g. where pupils have parents/guardians who misuse drugs or alcohol, or are themselves experiencing problems with misuse. All those working with pupils need to understand the policies and whole-school approach relating to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, which should aim to support pupils' welfare. Teachers need to be able to recognise when pupils' needs cannot be met entirely in school, and when they need to contact specialist sources of help. Pastoral support will be provided for any pupil who is at risk.

Parental Involvement

Parents will be contacted if their child is in possession of or using drugs or disclose related information of concern. Opportunities will be made available for parents to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health-related issues.

Confidentiality

A trusting relationship between pupils and staff is an important aspect of effective Drugs Education; however it is important for pupils to understand that staff cannot maintain confidentiality. The member of staff will make a professional judgement about the significance of what an individual child may say based on knowledge of that child and their particular circumstances. Any concerns staff may have should be discussed immediately with the Headteacher. The School is legally required to refer concerns regarding child protection issues, including drug abuse to other agencies such as social services.

Police Involvement

In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. However the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which controls heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA (ecstasy), amphetamines and cannabis and other drugs as well. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply these drugs and it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they either hand it to the local police or destroy it immediately.

This school maintains strong links with local community police through their involvement in the drug education curriculum, which helps pupils to have a greater understanding of the role of police and about drugs and the Law. It is the policy of this School to contact the local community police/schools involvement officer where an incident has involved illegal substances, and to hand the substance to the police.

Responding to Drug-related Incidents

All situations involving drugs will be carefully considered before deciding of the response. The following principles apply:

- The needs of the child will always come first.
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation.
- Support agencies including the police will be involved if appropriate.
- Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate.
- Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling response.

Disciplinary Response

Any drug related incident will be managed within the existing disciplinary procedures used by the school. The Head teacher must be informed of any drug-related incident.

Administering Medicines

In most cases, parents will be expected to administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours. Where this is not possible, parents of children in need of medication must ensure that the School is accurately advised about the medication, its usage and administration. Children are to manage their own medication, under supervision but only with parental agreement. All medicines are stored securely in the Office with access only by staff. In the case of asthma reliever inhalers, these are kept with the pupils in School for easy and immediate access. All medicines on site must be accompanied by a completed 'Administration of Medicines in School' proforma.

Policy review date: July 2016