



FULMER INFANT SCHOOL

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Fulmer Infant School will not condone, in any circumstances, the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school, or the illegal supply of these substances.

Our school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Our school is a non-smoking community and it acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young children and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

Our school acknowledges that the number of young people who use and misuse substances is rising.

Why does our school need a statement about drugs?

No school is immune from the effects of medicines, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances or other drugs, legal and illegal, upon its pupils, their families and the local community.

Britain is a drug using society. Medicines are used to improve health but can sometimes cause harm. Alcoholic drinks are used by many and misused by a few. Many people have also used or still use an illegal drug. Illegal drugs are widely available. Everyday household products such as glues and aerosols can be used to obtain a potent and potentially dangerous intoxication. Tobacco is readily available and is extremely damaging to health.

Children need guidance on how to live safely and successfully in a society where drug use is widespread and where any drug has the potential to harm. Drug education can help them to be better informed consumers of legitimate drugs and can highlight the risks of using illegitimate ones. They can be encouraged to develop informed opinions about drugs and their role in society and to learn tolerance for those people who are casualties of drug use.

Our Drug Education Policy helps us to do this. There are strong links to other Education Policies and our school works in line with Buckinghamshire Healthy Schools Standard.

Aims

Drug education aims to educate people for living in a drug using society; it is concerned with providing accurate and appropriate information, with exploring issues and helping young people to develop their abilities to make healthier choices. It aims to:

- Enable children to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge
- Provide accurate information about medicines/drugs

- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Increase children's knowledge about drugs/medicines
- Develop children's skills in handling drug-related situations
- Help children to explore their own and others' attitudes towards drugs
- Encourage understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate support.

How we will achieve these aims

Other

- Opportunities may arise in sport
- Healthy lifestyles are promoted in all aspects of school life with a strong and committed connection with the Buckinghamshire Healthy Schools Standard
- The school has clear guidelines on rules about pupils' medication and storage
- The school has a no smoking policy for all school buildings and grounds
- Our school only allows the use of alcohol for celebration or fund raising occasions after school hours or within a closed staffroom.

Responsibility

The Citizenship leader is the Headteacher. The leader is responsible for attending courses, development training, and informing staff of new issues, providing relevant INSET for staff, involving parents and pupils and governors.

Drug related incident management Policy

No school is immune from the effects of medicines, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances or other drugs, legal or illegal, upon its children, their families and the local community

There is always concern that children may become involuntarily involved with a drug related incident through older siblings or parents or other outside influences. The school must therefore:

- Have a set of procedures in order to be prepared for any drug related incident
- Ensure that any drug related incident is handled effectively and in the best interest of all concerned
- Define roles and responsibilities with regard to drug related incidents
- Monitor all incidents as part of reviewing the drug policy.

In order to achieve these aims the school will:

- Make sure staff know how to deal with drug related incidents
- Encourage staff to attend first aid courses
- Link drug related incident management policy to other relevant policies.

Confidentiality and Sensitive Issues

Because of the personal and sensitive natures of some of the issues raised and discussed during Citizenship lessons, children may occasionally make disclosures, either in class or to individual teachers.

Teachers should not offer children or their parents, unconditional confidentiality. Teachers should make it clear that although most information can be kept confidential, some may need to be passed on in the child's best interest. However, the person will know when this will happen, what will be done with the information and who will have access to it.

In class, teachers should establish that it is important that children agree not to pressure one another to answer questions about their experiences.

Many topics raised including sex, drug use, religion, politics, family values, law, environmental issues, bullying and bereavement will arouse strong feelings. Teachers must ensure children establish ground rules about how they will behave and react towards each other and how issues will be dealt with.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Drugs Education

Monitoring of teaching, learning and planning will take place through lesson observations and discussion. Teachers are also encouraged to take photographic evidence of class/group activities and displays.

The Citizenship leader will evaluate the subject and take part in self-evaluation using the curriculum co-ordinators file. All class teachers are encouraged to evaluate and report on the current schemes of work to facilitate their annual reviewing.

Special Needs and Equal Opportunities

Our school is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all children. Drugs Education is an entitlement for all children regardless of their own particular beliefs, culture, gender, social class or ability and the curriculum and learning approaches are planned with this in mind.