

Crofton Infants' School Drug Education Policy

Rationale

In response to shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of their care for the welfare of its pupils, the staff and governors of Crofton Infants' School believe that they have a duty to inform and educate their pupils about the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school believes in taking a pro-active stance on this matter, as it considers that drug and health education are vital areas of the personal and social education of every pupil.

The school does not condone the use of legal or illegal substances on school premises, but our policy is to put the child's welfare first. The behaviour, not the person, should be seen as unacceptable.

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

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of extra support to come forward for help.

The Nature of Drug Awareness and Definition of the Term "Drugs"

All drug and health education topics must be considered in the context of the personal and social development of pupils.

Accurate information is an important part of drug education. Pupils need to be taught that drugs are part of every day life, appearing in the form of such substances as caffeine, tobacco, alcohol, over the counter medicines, prescribed medicines and illegal substances such as cocaine, ecstasy etc. Pupils need to be taught the effects of these substances on the human body.

Additionally, children need to be encouraged to explore aspects of attitudes and values and to develop a wide range of skills in order to make informed and appropriate choices for their own health and safety.

Drugs can be classified into four groups: legal drugs (e.g. alcohol and tobacco), illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis and heroin), over the counter medicines (e.g. Paracetamol and lemsip) and prescription drugs (e.g. insulin).

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 aim to help children to develop the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Objectives

- To provide children with knowledge and information about the role of drugs as medicine and the safe use of medicines;
- To provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas in relation to drugs;
- 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;
- To help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, develop a healthy lifestyle;
- To show that taking 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.

Organisation

We regard drug 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. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine.

Drugs education is part of our school's science and personal, social and health education (PSHE) curricula. Aspects are also covered in physical development in the Foundation Stage. In teaching this course we follow the National Curriculum guidelines and guidance provided by the LEA. We also receive advice and support from health organisations. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

Delivery of drug education is regularly monitored and reviewed, on at least a yearly basis, to ensure its relevance to pupils.

Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. We use a variety of teaching styles to encourage children to ask questions and reflect on why people might need to take drugs. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others.

The National Curriculum lends itself to many aspects of drug education through references to attitudes and skills which, while initially applied to the subject context, can also be transferred and referred to in more general discussions.

Skills, Concepts, Attitudes and Knowledge

KEY STAGE 1

Attitudes

- ◆ Valuing one's body and recognising its uniqueness
- ◆ Attitudes towards medicines, hospitals and health professionals
- ◆ Attitudes towards the use of alcohol and cigarettes

Knowledge and Understanding

- ◆ Basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after the body.
- ◆ The role of medicines in promoting health and the reasons people use them.
- ◆ Understanding that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly.
- ◆ Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances in the home, including solvents.
- ◆ The effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body.
- ◆ People who can help when children have questions and concerns.
- ◆ School rules relating to medicines.

Skills

- ◆ Communicating feelings concerning illness and taking medicines.
- ◆ Following simple safety instructions.
- ◆ When and how to get help from adults.
- ◆ What to do if they find any substances.

Opportunities in the National Curriculum at Key Stage 1

Science

General requirements:

5. Health and safety.
 - a) recognise hazards and risks
 - b) follow simple instructions to control risks to themselves.

Life processes and living things

2. Humans as organisms
 - c) the role of drugs as medicines

Design and Technology

5. Knowledge and Understanding.

Health and safety:

- f) simple knowledge and understanding of health and safety measures when working with materials e.g. what to do when touching sharp materials.
Following simple instructions to control risks to themselves.

Special Educational Needs

We believe that these issues should be taught to all pupils and that all pupils, whatever their individual needs, should have the right to learn the skills that will enable them to deal effectively with any problems concerning drugs that they may encounter.

We also believe that discussions should be carried out in an open manner and that pupils should be encouraged to share their own views and experiences in a caring and accepting atmosphere.

Resources

A collection of staff resources is being kept in the drugs file which is in the headteacher's office. Additionally, more specific information relating to specific drugs or medicines is available from the Headteacher.

Guidance on the safe handling of sharps

A sharps bin is located in the Early Years kitchen for the collection of dangerous objects. A child in Early Years has an Epipen. The sharps bin is taken to the dining hall with the child every lunchtime. If the Epipen is used, it is placed in the bin and taken with the child to the hospital. If any other sharps are found, they are placed in the bin, which is then taken to the local Health Centre to be disposed of. The Health Centre then supplies school with a new sharps bin.

Staff and the caretaker are responsible for ensuring that the premises contained within the boundary of the school, including the grounds, remain safe at all times during the school day in term time. The same applies on school visits

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drug 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 drug 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 and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

In Crofton Infants' School the named person who oversees the drug education programme and deals with drug related incidents is the headteacher.

Drugs in School and the Administration of medication to pupils

Any prescribed medicines that a child must take during school hours must be either administered at home, or the parent must come into school to administer the medicine. (Please see Appendix B). Mrs. Young will provide a consent form for the administration of inhalers or regular medication, (Appendix C), which must be signed by a parent or guardian before any drug can be administered. The only medicines allowed in the classroom are inhalers (clearly named). The class teacher or teaching assistant will supervise the child using the inhaler.

If any member of staff has any concerns regarding a pupil in school or finds any suspicious substances, they should refer the matter immediately to the Headteacher

The Management of a Drug Related Incident

A drug related incident is any incident where drugs have been found or used in an inappropriate or dangerous manner. Please see Appendix E for examples we have discussed. If there is any doubt, staff will consult with the Headteacher.

The staff concerned will immediately inform the named person who will then take appropriate action as advised by the LEA. (Please see APPENDIX D.) In the case of Crofton Infants' this is the Headteacher.

Any drug related incident is reported to the Drug Education Development Officer, Claire Hammerson, using the form in APPENDIX A (Confidential Record of a Drug-Related Incident).

The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drug education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents and carers about the drug 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 and carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug 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 drug education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drug education their child receives in school;

Drug Education Policy

- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drug education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it if necessary;
- encourage parents to support the key messages being given to children at school.

Confidentiality

If a child attempts to disclose information relating to drug misuse, the promise of confidentiality is not realistic as the pupil or others may be at risk. The child needs to be informed that this is the case.

Any information concerning risk must be passed on to the Headteacher who will consult parents or other appropriate adults.

Other school policies

This policy has been written with reference to the school's behaviour and discipline policy and the policy for Health and Safety.

Monitoring and review

The curriculum committee of the governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drug 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 curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drug education programme and comments will be recorded.

The policy will be reviewed by staff every three years. The next review will be in 2007.

The Consultation Process

This policy was written in full consultation with the staff and Governors of Crofton Infants' School and the LEA Drug Education Development Officer.

Signed:

Date:

In Case of Emergency:

Doctor (Crofton): Tel : **01924 862612**

Police - (Wakefield): Tel: **01924 375831**
(Normanton): Tel: **01924 893331**

Police Schools Liaison Officer:

- Bob Simms: Tel: **07811 192420**

Drug Education Development Officer:

- Claire Hammerson: Tel: **01924 305516**