

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

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Introduction

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| Date: | January 2005 |
| Review due: | January 2006 |
| Staff responsible: | Mrs Jones & Mr Carter, Drug Co-ordinators, Mrs E Hitch, Headteacher |
| Governor responsible: | Ms J Emerson, Governor |

The process of policy writing involved consultation with the Headteacher, pastoral and teaching staff, governors, parents/carers, the Beaumont School Committee (pupils), the county Drug Education Consultant, and the school's medical co-ordinator.

NOTE: Within this policy, parent has the meaning attributed by the Education Act 1996 and includes others with parental responsibility.

Further guidance came from the Hertfordshire County Council Drug Education Guidance document and national guidance, specifically DfES "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" (March 2004).

For the purpose of this policy, a drug is any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and so includes legal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, solvents and medicine, as well as substances which it is illegal to possess, supply or use.

Drug misuse is defined as any of the following:

- (a) the use of legal drugs in inappropriate ways e.g. medical drugs prescribed for another person
- (b) the use of legal substances in excess e.g. alcohol
- (c) the use of legal substances other than medicines for illegal purposes e.g. solvent abuse
- (d) the use of illegal drugs

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Values and aims

The emphasis of this policy is on prevention of misuse in order to encourage a healthy and responsible life style and to avoid the sanctions of the law.

Set in the broader context of a programme for Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) and Science, our drug education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well being.

The programme will be delivered by those teachers who have been made familiar with it by the PSHE co-ordinators and have received from them information and support to deliver it confidently and effectively. Both the policy and programme are available for inspection at the school office. Copies of the policy are sent to parents when their child first becomes a student at the school. Parents are able to obtain further copies from the school office. The PSHE co-ordinators will explain the programme in more detail to any parent seeking clarification.

Prevention of drug misuse requires the co-operation and support of both parties within the school/parent partnership. Whenever appropriate the school will inform parents through parents' information evenings, of its approach to drug education and involve other professionals in the delivery of relevant and detailed drugs information.

All non-medical drugs on school premises are unacceptable with the exception of alcohol, consumed in line with legislation, at events held by the School or by persons with permission to consume alcohol on the premises e.g. a private party who have hired the hall for a social event. This is a non-smoking site so no exception is made for tobacco.

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits. The school will also have an interest in the health and well being of the pupils beyond these school boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances are rising, it is important to recognise that many young people are choosing not to do so. We will support their differing needs.

Rationale

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

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Aims

We aim to:

- Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through helping them to increase their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- Help young people to develop further a sense of self-worth and self esteem.
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- Help young people to distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- Listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- Counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- Enable pupils to identify where help and support can be found.
- Develop as a Health Promoting School.

Method

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- A co-ordinated, integrated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs.
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.
- Reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations.
- Content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and English as an additional language.
- Involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils and visitors.
- Training which is relevant to drug misuse being given high priority in the staff development programme, particularly for staff with key responsibilities for implementing the policy.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.
- Recognising that adults are role models for pupils and committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment; not using alcohol on premises except in the context of the exceptions already detailed in this policy; working in partnership with parents and carers

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Planning

Opportunities for drug education will be clearly identified on long, medium and short-term plans.

Special Educational Needs

In planning drug education for pupils with SEN, our teachers consider a range of responses. For example:

- Additional support given by staff;
- Activities may be differentiated or adapted;
- Programme aspects may need to be emphasised or expanded;
- Revisiting knowledge and skills in different contexts;
- Using strategies to increase access to drug education, such as theatre projects, ICT, school visits and specialist equipment.

Teaching – curriculum, materials and approaches

Drug Education is delivered via:

- Planned elements of National Curriculum subjects, including Science and RE;
- PSHE/Citizenship lessons;
- Pastoral time;
- Through occasional planned visits from school nurse, community police officer or other appropriate people;

An outline teaching programme can be obtained from the Drug Co-ordinators

A wide range of teaching approaches is used and we particularly encourage active learning methods, which involve children's full participation. Ground rules will be negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognised, safeguarding the interests of the pupil and everyone.

The work will be regularly monitored and evaluated by all staff and pupils.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or to individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, they need to follow our Child Protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

Working with visitors

We subscribe to the code of practice recommended by the Department for Education and Skills and by the Hertfordshire Drug Education Forum.

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Visitors can make a valuable contribution to drug education provision but do not constitute a comprehensive programme. The rationale for bringing in a visitor must be clear. It must enhance the overall educational experience and must educate rather than sensationalise. It must fit with the stated aims and objectives of our PSHE, Science and drug education policy. School staff must always be present and the educational outcomes evaluated.

Roles and responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children, they should recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

All staff also have a responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incidents. The pastoral postholders receive training and support in delivering this responsibility and will advise other staff as appropriate.

The Headteacher and Leadership Team have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are fulfilled, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug related incidents.

The Drug Education Co-ordinator is responsible for overseeing both curriculum implementation and other elements of school life contributing to drug education. This will include monitoring and evaluating drug education policy and practice throughout the school. The Drug Education Co-ordinator will work with other Co-ordinators to identify where other learning experiences contribute to drug education.

The Governor with responsibility for drug education and drug related issues has received training in drug issues and understands the issues involved and how they relate to wider issues of behaviour and school ethos. She contributes to developing and reviewing drug education policy and practice.

Response to possible drug related incidents

Our definition of a drug includes medicines (both prescription and OTC), alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and it is therefore important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by CSF and national guidance. (Ref: "*Drugs: Guidance for Schools*" DfES, February 2004).

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

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In the absence of a medical emergency, the Headteacher must be informed, the Drug Co-ordinator will be informed and an appropriate response considered. We will refer to the DfES guidelines when responding to drug related incidents to determine the necessary response. The implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. **The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.**

Responses will be cross-referenced with related school policies such as:

- Behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Child Protection
- School Visits
- Inclusion / Exclusion

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents/carers or guardians at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and resolve any difficulties.

We have a range of professional colleagues who can give / obtain advice, support and information in drug or alcohol related situations. These include:

- The school's Education Welfare Officer;
- The CSF Drug Education Consultant;
- The PSHE Adviser;
- The school nurse;
- A Connexions adviser;
- The local police Youth Crime Reduction Officer or Community Link Officer
- Representatives of the local Youth Offending Team (whose roles include supporting young people at risk of offending);
- Local Drug and Alcohol agencies and counselling services;
- The FRANK campaign;
- The Chairperson of the Drug Education Forum (DEF).

These colleagues can provide guidance and information, and may be able to help with a needs assessment to support us in developing an appropriate response. Contact details can be found on the DEF website www.hentsdef.org and in the Young People's Substance Misuse Services Directory.

The pupil/s will always be told when information is being passed on, in accordance with the school's policy on confidentiality.

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the Headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff, placed in a sealed container and both signed and dated. It should then be safely stored until it can be delivered to, or collected by, a police officer who will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. All such incidents will be recorded.

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Staff have been given a copy of this policy and are therefore aware of the protocols surrounding the safe disposal of drug paraphernalia which may be found on the premises and of the legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving the Headteacher and/or Drug Co-ordinator.

This policy will apply to parents/carers and other visitors to the school.

[Parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises: *Section 5.5.2*]