



Bladon C of E Primary School

Drugs Education Policy (CI4)

Date of Policy November 2016

Date for Review November 2018

Authorised by

Approved by

Tracey Fletcher, Headteacher

Ray Banks, Chairman of Governors

Introduction

This policy forms part of the school's commitment to promote pupils' wellbeing within a supportive and nurturing environment. Our objective is to encourage our children to live healthy lives and inherent in that to ensure that they develop an understanding of the dangers of misusing drugs of any kind, legal or otherwise whilst simultaneously developing the personal and social skills to enable them to keep themselves safe and healthy.

The policy reflects the Department of Education's guidance of September 2012. It describes our practice in relation to Drugs Education and in respect of the Management of Drug Related Incidents. It applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and outside agencies working with the school.

There are a number of linked school policies including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Behaviour, Confidentiality and Procedures for Administering Medicines which are also reflected in this policy.

Responsibility

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, in particular the management of drug related incidents. She has responsibility for liaising with the Governing Body, the LA, local police and support services. However all teaching staff contribute to the delivery of drug education and curriculum planning. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are adequately trained and supported in dealing with any substance issues. The lead Governor for the drugs policy is the named Safeguarding Governor whose details can be found under the "Governors" section on the school website.

Definition of Drugs

A drug is a substance which when taken changes the way a person feels, thinks or behaves. These include the following:

- Medicines – Those sold over the counter; those only sold via chemists' shops; and Prescription only.
- Alcohol.
- Tobacco.
- Controlled (illegal) Drugs – Class A (eg Heroin, Cocaine, Ecstasy); Class B (eg, Cannabis); Class C (eg, some sedatives, anti-depressants if not obtained on prescription).
- New psychoactive substances ("Legal Highs").
- Solvents – products that can cause intoxication through inhalation.

Definition of School Premises

The school premises include everything within the property boundaries including buildings, shelters, outbuildings, play areas, fields and also any other settings or venues where pupils are managed by school staff at the time e.g. on a school trip, event or visit.

The first concern for managing drugs is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupil. The following policies reflect this.

Drugs On The School Premises

The minimum age for smoking is 18. However in accordance with legislation the whole school premises are a smoke free site.

All controlled drugs, "legal highs", or chemical solvents are forbidden on the school premises. Alcohol may only be consumed on the premises by those aged 18 and over at events organised by the school or outside hirers of the school hall. In either case the organisers are responsible for ensuring no one under 18 consumes alcohol for in accordance with the law. All necessary licences for the sale of alcohol must be obtained in advance and produced to the school on request.

Medicines/Prescribed Drugs

Pupils are not allowed to bring or keep any medicine at school save as below.

Parents/carers must inform the school if a pupil needs to take prescribed medicines during school hours. Staff are not legally obliged to administer these and it remains the parents/carers' responsibility to ensure safe administration. They are encouraged to establish a regime which enables the pupil to receive the correct dosages outside school hours unless specifically advised otherwise by the treating doctor. In that event a member of staff will administer the medicine if requested provided that the medicine has been handed to the school administrator in the original container and dispensed by a pharmacist and includes the prescriber's instructions for administration: the school will not make changes to dosages on parental instructions. The request must have been put in writing stating the pupil's name, the name of the medication, the required dose, agreed time of administration and the duration of the treatment and signed and dated.

Prescribed emergency medicines such as Epipens, insulin and spare asthma inhalers will be held by the school office clearly labelled with the pupil's name in a safe place out of the children's' reach. The school will keep an up to date list of pupils requiring these. In an emergency they will be administered in accordance with the signed protocol which must be kept with them. All staff are trained in the use of Epipens and a designed member of staff in the use of Insulin pens. In the event of such an emergency an ambulance will also be called and the family contacted immediately. All incidents will be recorded in a medical incident form. It is the parents/carers' responsibility to ensure the medicine is in date and to dispose of out of date drugs.

Drugs Education Policy

Our drugs education policy is primarily delivered by the staff through PSHE lessons and the study of our stated school values which include Health and Happiness, Confidence and Community & Respect, and reinforced by occasional input from other professionals trained in the requirements of drug education and issues relating to drug misuse. Our policy is designed to give pupils accurate information on drug and alcohol on a carefully devised age appropriate basis, within the framework of learning about health and how bodies work, whilst simultaneously developing the personal emotional and social skills required to make Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 accordingly. For example, in Foundation Stage children may be taught to recognise the value of keeping healthy in broad terms and begin to distinguish between their own views and others'; in Key Stage 2 be given basic information about how the body works, taught to distinguish between different types of drugs, receive basic information about tobacco and alcohol and to develop the confidence to talk to an adult about concerns generally; in Key Stage 2 be given a more detailed biological information, educated about controlled drugs and how to handle peer pressure and make independent decisions.

The policy ultimately aims to promote individual, family and community responsibility for healthy lifestyles. Pupils are therefore also educated as to the risks posed to others by drug misuse and as to whom they can turn for help in addition to the staff. A list of useful outside agencies is appended to this policy for easy reference.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

These incidents refer to the possession, use, supply of or intoxication by substances defined as drugs in this policy on the school premises.

The school's first concern in dealing with any incident will be the health and safety of the pupils and the wider school community directly or indirectly affected and in providing practical and pastoral support to them. Its response will be undertaken in partnership with parents, will be sensitive to the well-being of each pupil involved and the whole school community and the consequences will be considered in the light of the Safeguarding and Behaviour Policies.

However in the event of the use of or intoxication by a substance the first response will be in accordance with the procedure for dealing with medical emergencies. One of the first aid trained staff will be summoned. If the emergency involves or arises from taking prescribed emergency medicine the designated procedure for that will be followed. In all other cases they will check that the child's airways are not blocked and place them in the recovery position. An ambulance will be called immediately and the pupil will be kept in such conditions as the emergency services advise until their arrival. In all cases the child's family will be contacted immediately.

The headteacher will co-ordinate the next steps and will consider the appropriate action. This may be disciplinary, when the range of options will include a warning, or a period of, or permanent, exclusion depending on the individual circumstances, alongside pastoral support measures. He may also make a referral to appropriate outside agencies including the local police in accordance with his statutory duties and with the school's Safeguarding Policy. Additionally a pupil may be encouraged to accept a referral to a drugs counselling agency if it is considered to be in the interest to attend. The school will work closely with the pupil's family in addressing the issue unless prohibited by an outside agency under the Safeguarding procedures.

In the event of a pupil arriving at school reasonably suspected of suffering ill effects of drug or alcohol use they will be isolated until a parent/carer collects them from school.

All incidents will be recorded on a school incident form and reported to the Governing Body.

Parents/Carer under the Influence of Drugs on School Premises

In the event of any parent/carer being under the influence of drugs whilst on the school premises staff will endeavour to establish a calm atmosphere but seek the support of another member of staff in accordance with their safeguarding training. If they are concerned about allowing a pupil to leave the premises with them one of them will immediately fetch the headteacher who will consider whether the pupil may be at risk in doing so and whether temporary alternative arrangements should be made, the child's safety always being of paramount importance. The headteacher will discuss this with the parent/carer with a view to reaching a consensual decision save where to do so in her professional opinion jeopardise the pupil's safety. In this event, or if the parent/carer becomes verbally or physically abusive, she should consider whether to start child protection procedures and/or involve the local police in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy.