

STOKE PARK INFANT SCHOOL

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY



INTRODUCTION

Stoke Park Infant School is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils and parents / carers the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Through this we aim to encourage our pupils to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future. We will teach our pupils at an age appropriate level that the misuse of substances can have serious negative consequences for them and those around them. This could be of a physical, psychological, social, financial or legal nature. This policy has been written in line with the current Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy, RSE Policy and Administration of Medicines Policy.

Only drugs in accordance with the Administration of Medication policy will be allowed on the site. Medicines will only be administered with parental permission.

Throughout the policy the term 'Drugs' will refer to tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other substances, which can have a harmful effect whether they be legal or illegal. Substances covered by this policy will be:

- Over the counter medicines – e.g. paracetamol, cough medicines
- Prescription medication
- Legal drugs such as caffeine, alcohol, vaping,
- All illegal drugs
- All so-called legal highs such as petrol, butane, aerosols

*Alcohol may be used at authorised events (namely parent/carer/community events). In such cases the alcohol will be stored in a secure area not accessible to children.

**The school site is strictly non-smoking. All staff are made aware of this as part of their induction and health and safety policy

***Any volatile substance used by the site manager in the maintenance of the school will be stored in a locked cupboard

AIMS

- To develop an understanding of the role of drugs as a medicine
- To develop an understanding that household products including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- To promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- To say NO to bad persuasion and become aware of peer-pressure

- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop
- To ensure that everybody in the school understands how drug incidents are managed
- To support the needs of the local community and school in relation to drugs, including differences and diversity within the school community

TEACHING

These aims will be fulfilled through our taught curriculum, aspects of the informal curriculum and will be reflected through the school ethos. Our drug education provides opportunities for children to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefit of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions.

The drug education programme will be delivered through our PHSE provision and through science in accordance with the national curriculum and statutory parts of science for KS1, but opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum. We are aware of the cultural and religious diversity of our community. Drug issues are particularly sensitive and it will be important to consider how we communicate effectively with parents/carers and the community.

Our drug education is taught through multiple teaching approaches. The children's existing knowledge is taken into account and built on through a lesson. This could be through drawing, writing or class discussions.

In Early Years our children learn about the importance of exercise, a healthy diet and talk about ways of keeping safe and healthy. They are also taught about basic hygiene and personal needs.

Cross-curricular links are also made through PE, English, Maths, Science, Art, Drama to name a few.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS:

Drugs related incidents are defined as the following:

- Drugs or associated waste found on the school premises
- A pupil found in possession of drugs or associated waste
- A pupil or parent/carer is found to be supplying drugs on or near the school premises
- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member are mis-using drugs or have an inappropriate level of knowledge for their age/stage of development

FINDING SUBSTANCES

If a member of staff finds any substance on the school premises which they suspect of being harmful or illegal they should report it to the Headteacher or in their absence to the Deputy Headteacher. The substance should then be removed in the presence of a witness and the substance must be placed in a sealed plastic bag. This should include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and the witness who was present; if the sample is known or suspected to be illegal then the police will be informed. The police will then collect and deal with this in line with their agreed protocols.

Note: The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so.

If a substance is removed from a child, this must be done in the presence of a witness. It should be stored in the locked cupboard in Cosy Corner with access limited to senior staff. The child's parents/carers should be informed as soon as possible of the incident and recorded on CPOMS. If a child is suspected as being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol on the school premises, the school would prioritise the safety of the child and those around them. If necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering first aid or seeking support from emergency services. Depending on the circumstances, parents and/or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is deemed to be at risk the protocols of the Safeguarding Policy and procedures will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

In both cases the incidents will be fully recorded on CPOMS, including, if needed, the police reference number.

PARENTS/CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES

When a member of staff has concerns about releasing a child into the care of a parent/carer who appears to be incapacitated through being under the influence, and as a result is thought to be unable to ensure their child's safety, the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will be immediately alerted. The child will remain in school care until the matter has been resolved. The safety of the child will always be of paramount importance.

FINDING PARAPHERNALIA

If any equipment or paraphernalia associated with drugs or other substances are found on the school site they should be handled with caution using appropriate protective clothing. The substance should then be removed in the presence of a witness and the paraphernalia must be placed in a sealed plastic bag with the date, time and names of the witnesses present. The police will be informed and the disposal will be arranged.

MONITORING

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher and senior leadership team, the policy will be reviewed every three years and approved by the governing body.

Policy Agreed:

Next Review: September 2024