

BLAKESLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Drug Education Policy

Background to the School and its Location

Blakesley C.E. Primary School is a small, non-selective school for children aged 4-11+. It is situated in Blakesley village, a rural area of Northamptonshire. The School prides itself on its friendly, family atmosphere and is mindful of its Church foundation. Numbers on roll vary, but are generally between 90 and 100. The pupils attend from Blakesley itself and a number of surrounding villages. Many are brought to school by a specially-contracted school bus, others are brought by parents, few walk to school unaccompanied. There are very few children from ethnic minorities, but the children come from a variety of backgrounds. On average, about 7% of the children are entitled to free school meals. About 25% of the children are on the S.E.N. register. The staff are made aware of very few first-hand incidents and exposure to drugs (in the widest sense of the term), but they are aware that drug problems span all areas, ages and cultures. Therefore, the School seeks to provide appropriate education in order to protect pupils from any potential dangers, bearing in mind that, generally, the pupils' prior knowledge is likely to be less-detailed than that of pupils from other backgrounds, and that no-one would wish them to be exposed to inappropriate knowledge.

Policy Formulation and Consultation Process

This policy has been formulated after a series of consultation meetings, involving all members of staff and the Governing Body and is regularly reviewed and updated.

The issues considered were:

- staff attitudes
- the school situation
- the needs of the pupils
- responsibility for the delivery of the drug education programme
- medicines in school
- cross-curricular links
- links with other policies
- child protection
- dissemination of information
- implications for the involvement of governors, members of the teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, adult helpers and external agencies

Aims

It is the aim of the School to raise pupils' awareness of the harm that drug, substance and solvent abuse can cause and to enable them to make healthy and informed choices about their lifestyle.

Objectives

- ❑ To increase knowledge and understanding of the dangers of drug abuse (including tobacco and alcohol)
- ❑ To equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to avoid the misuse of drugs
- ❑ To enhance pupils' decision-making skills

Moral and Values Framework

All drug education will be delivered in the spirit of the School's caring ethos.

It is felt by all staff that the needs of the pupils should be identified and that any drug education programme should reflect those needs. We recognise that drug education is not simply about the giving of knowledge, but also about the imparting of life skills and is best delivered before exposure to drugs takes place.

An appendix (Appendix 1) entitled "Jugs and Herrings" is included. This sheet is designed as an assessment of a child's knowledge and can be used wither before or after drug education has been undertaken.

Staff recognise their role as partners with parents and other drug educators in delivering drug education.

All drug education, especially that relating to medicines, alcohol and tobacco, will be sensitively delivered.

Context

Drug education will be provided as part of the pupils' course of study in Science (Health Education) and in the context of P.S.H.E. (Personal, Social and Health Education). It may include role play where appropriate. It will take into account the age, sex, cultural and social background of the pupils involved. (Appendix 2 offers guidance on this.)

Content, Method and Organisation

Drug education will be provided by classteachers in a clear and honest manner that avoids sensationalism. It will provide factual and accurate information appropriate to the class and will be backed up by consistent advice. Active pupil participation in lessons will be encouraged. As well as knowledge about drugs, children will be encouraged to develop the life skills needed to resist pressure to be drawn into what they do not want, to appreciate the possible consequences of their actions and to recognise potential dangers.

Drug education will be provided at regular intervals throughout the child's school career so as to maximise its effectiveness, but the main teaching will be undertaken in Years 5 and 6.

Outside agencies will be consulted or invited into school to work with the children as deemed necessary, but both these and other resources will first be screened by the teacher to establish suitability.

Teachers will take advantage of any training opportunities on a rolling cycle.

As previously stated, all explicit and controversial aspects will be dealt with sensitively and honestly in a manner appropriate to the age group. Consideration will be given as to whether education in response to a particular issue should be given to individual pupils rather than to the class as a whole, as determined by need.

The minimum curriculum entitlement for both Key Stages is given in Appendix 4.

Children will be encouraged to offer suggestions and ask questions at all times, in a confidential setting if this is appropriate.

The drug education programme will be evaluated regularly in conjunction with the updating of this policy.

Responsibility for drug education co-ordination will be the Health and Safety Co-ordinator.

Management of Incidents

Whilst it is felt that there is very little likelihood of any such incidents happening in our school's current situation, the following LEA directives will be followed should the unthinkable happen:

- Any disclosure made by a pupil regarding drug abuse by another individual will be discretely handles so as not to cause fear of rejection, identification or discrimination of those involved.
- Any reports of intimidation or bullying in relation to drugs will be dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.
- If evidence is obtained relating to the possession or misuse of drugs by a pupil, the information must be communicated as soon as possible to the Headteacher, or his/her deputy, who must make sure that any such information is accurate before taking action.
- Accuracy of information must be determined by the following steps:
 - If there is no evidence of the possession of drugs, the pupil must be interviewed by the Headteacher, or his/her deputy, where the principles of confidentiality will be explained.
 - The pupil will be interviewed concerning the accuracy of the information and the circumstances, including any personal and social problems that may underlie the possession and/or misuse of drugs.

- ❑ Should any such case occur, the pupil's parents or a responsible carer must be contacted as soon as possible and before any appropriate disciplinary or pastoral action is taken.
- ❑ There is no legal obligation to inform the police if the pupil is not in the possession of drugs, although they may be able to give relevant support and advice. If the police are informed, the pupil must be told of this.
- ❑ Any substance recovered must be handed over to the Headteacher, or his/her deputy, in the presence of a reliable witness. It must be kept securely and handed over to the police as evidence.
- ❑ The pupil must be kept under supervision at all times following such an event.
- ❑ Help and support by appropriate outside agencies should be offered to the pupil/parents/responsible carer. (See Appendix 5.)
- ❑ Any information regarding such incidents should be divulged to a minimum of people on a "need-to-know" basis. The following people should be informed as a matter of course:
 1. Headteacher
 2. Chair of Governors
 3. Any relevant authority
- ❑ The advice of any outside agencies should be sought before any decision is made regarding disciplinary action. Exclusion should only be used as a final resort by the full governing body.
- ❑ Response to any incident should be considered individually.
- ❑ Distinction must be drawn between possession, use and supply of drugs.

Equal Opportunities

All children, regardless of special educational needs, linguistic abilities, physical difficulties, etc. will have access to drug education, which will be delivered in a manner suitable to their situation and abilities.

Dissemination of the Policy

The governors and all members of staff will receive a copy of the policy. Parents may have a copy on request. The policy's existence will be referred to in future copies of the school booklet.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of the policy and for liaison with Governors, parents, the LEA and appropriate outside agencies.

The Headteacher will also ensure that staff receive adequate support and training.

The Governing body will ensure that the policy is in place and will monitor it.

All staff are responsible for delivering the aspects of the curriculum that relate to drug education.

The caretaker is responsible for checking the school grounds for any discarded substances, syringes, etc.

Signed:

Date: