



West Winch Primary School Drugs Education Policy 2018

Aims and objective

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 teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, drinking alcohol to excess and smoking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.
- To enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- 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, or are aware of other people misusing drugs.
- To help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse.
- To show that taking illegal 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 governors and staff.

Organisation

We regard drugs 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. We encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between helpful and harmful drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the Local Authority (LA), and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

The Management of drug-related incidents

The Head is responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents. Support for dealing with incidents will be sought from outside agencies as appropriate.

Procedures

It is the policy of West Winch Primary School, that no child should bring any drug, legal or illegal, to school. If a child will need medication during the school day the parent or carer should notify the school and ask permission for the medication to be brought in. This should be taken directly to the designated members of staff for safekeeping. Any medication needed by a child while in school must be taken under the supervision of a teacher or other adult.

The school will take very seriously misuse of any substances such as glue, other solvents, or alcohol. The parents or carers of any child involved will always be notified. Any child who deliberately brings substances into school for the purpose of misuse may be punished by a fixed-term or permanent exclusion depending on the circumstances, and the police and social services will be informed. If any child is found to be suffering from the effects of alcohol or other substances, arrangements will be made for that child to be taken home and a referral will be made to Social Services. It is forbidden for adults to bring illegal drugs onto the school premises. Anyone who is found to have brought any type of illegal substance onto the school premises will be asked to leave and the appropriate authorities informed. If a child is found to have deliberately brought illegal substances into school and is found to be distributing these to other pupils, the child will be permanently excluded from the school. The police and social services will also be informed. The parent will then give any medication required to the child, unless there is a previously arranged agreement with the class teacher or a care plan has been agreed.

The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the role of the Headteacher 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 drugs 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.

The role of Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs 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:

- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school.
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school.

Drugs Education Policy – Usage, Monitoring and Review

This policy will be used as guidance by all teaching staff, monitored by the Deputy Headteacher and reviewed in line with the Governors agreed policy schedule.

Adopted: Summer 2018

Review: Summer 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Heather Habbin - Chair of Governing Body