

Broom Barns School Stevenage

Drugs Policy

February 2024

1. Aims and Objectives

Current National Guidance states that the purpose of drug education should be;

- To give young people the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate them to their own actions, both now and in their future life.
- To provide accurate and up to date information on drugs and their effects on health, and on the risks and legal aspects of drug taking so that pupils are enabled to distinguish fact from myth.

Furthermore drug education should introduce opportunities to enhance pupils' self respect, personal competence and self-esteem by enabling them to:

- Make informed decisions and choices
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- Maintain and develop relationships
- Develop self-confidence and improve self-esteem
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Develop the motivation to succeed

At Broom Barns Primary School the whole-school approach to drug education supports this purpose and the implementation is set up to fulfil these aims. We aim to extend the child's knowledge of themselves and the world they live in, by providing a caring, secure and supportive environment. We hope that children will make informed choices as a result of this policy.

2. Implementation

At Broom Barns Primary School, a coherent and continuous drug education programme operates as part of the whole school approach to PSHE, with some input in each year of the school. Drugs education permeates the whole curriculum.

Each child will have access to drug education, regardless of gender, ability or race. Access will be matched to their particular needs or concerns of the class. Children with special educational needs or who have English as an additional language will be given additional support (from their assigned supporting adult or from additional adults if available,) to understand the effects and misuse of drugs. Follow-up discussions in class will endeavour to consolidate the children's understanding and learning and be an opportunity for any children to raise queries or ask further questions.

Children will be made aware of the effects of drugs for the individual, the family and the wider community.

3. Programme of Study

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks'.

This refers to both legal and illegal drugs:

- Illegal drugs* (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS – formerly known as 'legal highs'), GHB, anabolic steroids and khat

- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18 year olds including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents)
- Drugs that are legal to use and buy such as poppers, caffeine drinks
- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines

*Nitrous Oxide is not illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act but is illegal to produce, supply, sell or import for human consumptions under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

The following outlines topics covered:

Key Stage 1

Knowledge and Understanding

- Basic information about how the body works, what goes onto and into the body, and ways of looking after the body.
- Safe and unsafe substances used in the home and school, and simple safety rules.
- Medicines and tablets, the reasons people use them, simple safety rules and school rules.
- People who are involved with medicines and drugs (e.g. health professionals, chemists, shopkeepers).
- People who can help pupils when they have questions or concerns.
- Introduction to the drugs which pupils may encounter and an understanding that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly.

Skills

- Personal likes and dislikes.
- Being friends with others.
- Communicating feelings and concerns about illness and taking medicines.
- Following simple safety instructions. E.g. actions which pupils need to take to keep themselves and others safe.
- When and how to get help from adults.
- Knowing how to say 'NO'.

Attitudes

- Respect and caring for oneself and valuing the uniqueness of one's own body.
- Respect and caring for others.
- Realising that it is sometimes appropriate and important to say 'NO'.
- Realising that adults or older children are not always 'friends'.

Key Stage 2

Knowledge and Understanding

- More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to keep it healthy.
- Different types of medicine (prescribed and over the counter), the value and Life-saving qualities of some drugs; safety procedures when using medicines.
- Caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs pupils are likely to encounter, their general effects on the body and on behaviour, and the associated risks of drug taking.
- School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and other drugs.
- Consideration of why some people take drugs.
- People who might persuade pupils to take drugs, including friends, known adults, peers, older children, stereotypical images.
- Identifying and understanding pressures and influences.
- Dangers from handling discarded drugs related equipment.
- Simple first aid.

- People who can help pupils when they have questions or concerns.
- Introduction to the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs.

Skills

- Personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Handling social relationships.
- Expressing and communicating feelings and concerns about drugs and their use.
- Identifying risks.
- Coping with peer influences.
- Communicating with adults.
- Making choices and knowing the consequences of actions.

Attitudes

- Valuing oneself and other people.
- Attitudes towards the use of alcohol and tobacco within the home and the wider society.
- Parents' and teachers' reactions to drugs and their use.
- Attitudes and beliefs about different drugs, the people who use/misuse them, and why they use them.
- Responses to media and advertising presentations of medicines, alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs.

The effects of everyday substances, substances that can help or harm the body (e.g. medicines) and the safe storage of household substances (e.g. bleach and cleaning fluids) should provide the teaching focus for pupils at Key Stage 1. Within Key Stage 2 the drugs programme should focus on a range of substances, including alcohol and tobacco, illegal and prescribed drugs, and the misuse of volatile substances (e.g. glue, aerosols and petrol). The harmful and beneficial impact these substances can have on their body and how to make responsible, informed decisions relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco and other substances and drugs. The emphasis will vary in order to reflect the local situation and the age and maturity of pupils.

The delivery of drug education occurs in class teaching, national curriculum subjects, PSHE lessons, assemblies and presentations.

The following principles are applied during drug education delivery;

- Ground rules negotiated for the discussion of this sensitive issue, including disclosure, confidentiality, and child protection issues.
- An assessment of where students are at in terms of e.g. knowledge, language, skills, interest and anxieties.
- A range of teaching methods used, in order to encourage the interactive participation of all students.
- Only comprehensive, accurate, up-to-date and unbiased information will be provided.
- Students given an opportunity to reflect on their learning.

Evaluation, based on the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, is carried out with the students and staff at appropriate points and at the end of each year.

4. Outside Agencies

All adults involved in classroom activities are bound by school policy. Their role is dependent upon the class teacher's direction. Outside speakers e.g. police, nurse, consultants, social workers may be asked to address drug issues and drug abuse.

5. Parental/Carer Involvement

Broom Barns Primary School will encourage parents/carers to support their efforts on drug awareness and prevention. Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss their concerns and share this policy about the teaching of drug awareness.

The policy is available to parents on request.

6. Staff Training

School based INSET will be provided to enable staff training to take place. External agencies may be invited to provide school based support. When deemed necessary, the school will send individual staff on courses to maintain an up to date approach.

7. Drug related incidents

This policy and procedures apply to:

- All legal and illegal drugs and medicines.
- All students, staff and visitors to the school.
- The school premises.
- Students' journeys between home and school.
- Educational visits, residential courses and extra-curricular activities for students.

The possession, use or supply of any drug is regarded as a breach of school rules and the appropriate disciplinary procedure will be initiated, with the exception of :

- The use of medicines by students with parental notification and knowledge by the individual class teacher.
- The appropriate use of medicines by staff.
- The smoking of tobacco by staff on journeys between school and home. The school operates a no-smoking policy within the school premises.
- Consumption of alcohol by staff and visitors during organised social occasions on the premises after the school day.

8. The Law

The law covering the possession, use and supply of medicines, alcohol, solvents, illegal and other drugs is complex. The legal obligations of schools concern the responsibility for premises. It is an offence to knowingly allow:

- The use of cannabis and opium
- The sale of alcohol without a license
- The production and supply of any illegal substance

9. Health and Safety

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are prepared to deal with a drug related medical emergency by calling a trained first-aider. Professional medical help will be called immediately. The Head Teacher will be notified and the office will attempt to contact the parents/carers of those concerned. The names of trained first aiders can be found at various points around the school and in Appendix 1 below.

Medication such as asthma pumps and Epi-pens are to be kept in the child's classroom along with a copy of the consent form for dosage and administration. A photograph of the child and a note about their condition is placed in the classroom, clearly visible to all.

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to store the medication safely.

Epi pens are to be administered by a first-aider but in other cases such as asthma pumps, if a child is able to, they can self-administer.

10. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

This policy has been issued to and acknowledged by all staff. It will be reviewed Every three years or as circumstances or government directives dictate.

Other Policy links

- RSE Policy.
- PHSCE policy.
- Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Behaviour Policy.
- Child Protection Policy.

Policy Date: May 2024

Review Date: May 2027

