

Parrett and Axe CE VA Primary School

Drugs Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2004 the DfES updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the LA, and guidance from the local Drug Action team.

2 Aims

- 2.1 The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

3 Terminology

- 3.1 The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs:

- all *illegal* drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971);
- all *legal* drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

4 Parrett and Axe School Statement

- 4.1 **Parrett and Axe** School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

- 4.2 We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

5 Responsibilities

- 5.1 The headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given opportunities for training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;

- 5.2 The governing body will:

- designate a governor with specific responsibility for drugs education;
- establish general guidelines on drugs education;

- support the headteacher in following these guidelines;
- inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

6 Objectives of drugs education

6.1 Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

7 Drugs education

7.1 We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE and Citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

7.2 Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

7.3 In Key Stage 2 pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be underestimated. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.

7.4 We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

7.5 We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

7.6 Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course we follow the DfES and LA guidelines. A particularly successful part of our drugs education programme is the annual visit of the Life Education Van to which parents are invited.

7.7 The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or by the LA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

8 Drugs at school

8.1 Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication and sign the relevant forms. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Medication will be stored securely in the school office and issued by an appropriate member of staff.

9 Drugs incidents

9.1 The headteacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

9.2 A full record will be made of any incident.

9.3 The headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

10 The role of parents

10.1 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 our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs policy;
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- 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 about arrangements for drugs education in the school.

10.2 When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

11 Monitoring and review

11.1 The curriculum committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy on an annual basis. If the policy appears to need modification, then the committee will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded.