

SPARSHOLT CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRUG POLICY

Rationale

This school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Implementation

1. In the context of this policy, the term drug is used to include:
 - illegal substances
 - substances which are legal but can be misused : some of these substances would not be acceptable for possession and use on school premises e.g. alcohol, tobacco and solvents.
2. There will be a drugs education programme which is co-ordinated by the Head teacher. Information will be given to parents before the programme begins.
3. Any necessary action in response to drug-related incidents will be co-ordinated by the Head teacher (see below). Any media interest will be dealt with by the Head teacher.
4. This policy draws on the guidance provided in 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools' Sept 2012 and 'Hampshire Children's Trust: Drugs use and misuse policy' Sept 2012.

DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Aims

- to enable children to become accurately informed of the mental, physical, psychological and social effects of substance use and misuse.
- to enable children to experience up to date teaching based on existing knowledge
- to give children the opportunity to develop their abilities to communicate their concerns and take responsible decisions

We believe that drug education should start at primary school. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity.

Science National Curriculum Links

Year 2 : Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene (this unit will include medicines).

Year 6 : Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.

Outside agencies, namely the YMCA, delivers the drug education programme in Year 6 and will be asked to adhere to our school policy.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse
- practice decision making skills
- become aware of peer pressure
- develop assertiveness skills
- consider the consequences of risk taking
- learn how to access sources of help and information
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- evaluate media messages on drug use

In addition:

- Differentiated materials will be provided to cater for pupils with SEN.
- There will be opportunities for staff development.
- Counselling and support will be available to staff and pupils.

Parental involvement

Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

Staff Development

All staff need to:

- understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education
- be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities

We believe that the well-being of all pupils in our care can be safeguarded by appropriate and well-timed education about the dangers of drug abuse. This can be achieved through co-operation between staff, governors, parents and the children themselves.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

'In School' is taken to mean on school premises, including buildings and grounds. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips. The policy will also relate to pupils use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

All incidents or concerns will be logged and the Head teacher will be informed. Parents will also be informed, unless linked to an abuse case, and provisions made for any outside professional help, such as police officers or health professionals. Where illegal substances are involved, outside agencies will automatically be informed.

Staff or other persons on the School site believed to be under the influence of drugs and having a detrimental effect upon the education of the pupils or causing a health, safety or security hazard will be requested to leave by the Head teacher (as long as it is safe to do so). On no account will the person be pursued. The relevant authorities will be informed.

Pastoral Support

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils.

If a pupil voluntarily discloses information about drug abuse, it is important to consider the following guidelines:

- * listen to the pupil's point of view
- * avoid jumping to conclusions
- * don't over-react
- * don't guarantee confidentiality

Suspicious Behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged by the Head teacher, so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

Finding substances

If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- ◆ the date and time of the find or retrieval
- ◆ the size and appearance of the substance
- ◆ the names of those concerned
- ◆ the action taken

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Head teacher, or her representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies.

Staff are able to search a pupil's property or person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking them to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil, authorisation from the headteacher is required. The search must be conducted by a member of staff of the same sex as the pupil and with a member of staff as a witness, preferably of the same sex. Parents will be informed as soon as possible. Staff have the right to refuse to search a pupil. Searches will only be carried out where there is reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. The school will follow the advice given in 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Feb 2014 DfE'.

Finding Drug Misuse

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the pupil is paramount.

In all instances:

- separate the child involved from the rest of the group
- decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare
- inform parents

Supplying illegal substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Returning articles which have been confiscated

Articles confiscated and not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

Medicines

See our 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' Policy 2015.

Policy for drugs

Teacher responsible : Stephen Young

Initial Approval by Staff : Jan 2009

Governor committee responsible : Curriculum Committee

Approved by CC governors : May 2011

Reviewed and approved : May 2015