



## **Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy**

Drug and drug education in the context of this document are inclusive terms including tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, medicines and other substances such as solvents.

A teacher of drug education does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach which is crucial to this area of learning.

Successful drug education should start early; the key to which is developing pupils' life skills.

Balfour Junior School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward. The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

### **Aims**

The aim of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices.

### **Objectives**

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the danger of drug misuse To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To minimise the number of young people who engage in drug misuse.
- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.
- To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle.
- To enhance later parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when pupils reach adulthood.

### **Context**

- Drug education should be provided in the broader context of the teaching of health and personal and social education as part of a pupil's life skills and preparation for adulthood.
- It should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest.

- It should be delivered in the context of the school as part of the community.
- It should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.
- It should aim to teach pupils the necessary social and personal skills, as described above.

## **Content Methods and Organisation**

- It should be delivered in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse.
- It should encourage active pupil participation backed up with adequate teacher supervision.
- It should be provided to pupils at regular intervals throughout the school career so as to maximise its effectiveness.
- It should be provided by teachers and other professionals with specific training in the requirements of drug education and issues relating to drug misuse.
- It should be evaluated.
- It should be backed up with access to advice or help for pupils with problems or concerns.

These objectives are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum and the informal curriculum. Through the curriculum this is taught mainly through PSHE and Science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum. The school actively co-operates with the local authority and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

## **Confidentiality**

Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, it should be discussed with a member of Senior Leadership Team. It is essential for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external services.
- Every effort will be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information.

It may be necessary to invoke local child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat.

## Checklist for Use of Visitors in Delivery of Drug Education

Drugs Education is a shared responsibility and visitors and staff from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies can support and enhance drug education programmes in schools when part of a PSHE programme. However, they should not be used to abdicate the responsibility of the school, and be relied upon solely to deliver drugs education. The use of visitors needs to be part of a planned, coherent and integrated approach. The checklist below will assist the school in developing a partnership approach to drugs education delivery and support for young people.

Before involving a visitor the following should be considered.

- Consistency with the school's ethos, values, drug policy and approach to drugs education.
- The most appropriate source of information/support – why do you want the agency's involvement?
- What is the visitor expected to do?
- What will the teacher's contribution to the session be?
- Is it clear to the visitor that the teacher will remain in the classroom?
- What preparation will be necessary, i.e. classroom layout, size of groups, content of session, A/V equipment etc?
- Has the visitor been checked with the CRB?
- Child protection implications.
- Have confidentiality issues been clarified, avoiding inappropriate disclosures?
- How will the session be followed up?
- How will the input be evaluated?
- Is parental consent required?

## Bringing Drugs onto the school site

Drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, should not be brought onto the school site. The school is a 'No Smoking' site. Alcohol may be brought onto the site as part of an organised event for which there is appropriate authority and license – if required.

## Dealing with incidents

Any **drug related incident** in school should be reported initially to the Safer School Partnership Coordinator (SSPC) who can co-ordinate the police response to the incident including enabling the searching, seizure of drugs and investigation of any offences. The SSPC is PC Mel Ling, 01634 792356. If the SSPC is unavailable the school should contact the Community Safety Partnership Sergeant, Mark Carron on 01634 792824.

If the Safer School Partnership Coordinator or Sergeant are not available, please contact the Force Contact and Control Centre on 01622 690690.

A **drug related incident in school** is one that occurs on school property or during an organised school activity and is when:

- Drugs are found

- Drugs are found in a pupil's possession
- A pupil is suspected of supplying or intending to supply drugs to others

Any other type of incident should be reported to the Force Contact and Control Centre who will arrange resources to deal with the problem.

## **The roles of the Headteacher and Governing Body**

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported.

The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, as the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media. The school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA Press Office and Legal Department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school. The LA should be informed as soon as possible.

In agreeing this policy, the governors have fully considered and assessed any potential impact the policy may have with regard to equality and diversity

To be reviewed July 2015