



Devonshire Primary Academy Drugs Education Policy



Implementation Date: September 2013
Adopted by Governors/HT: HT
Review period: 3 year
Last review date: October 2017
Person responsible for policy: Miss N Dean

Drugs Education Policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 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, 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.

1.2 The aims of our drug education programme reflect the DfES guidance (2004) which are to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about:
 - the short and long term risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including
 - assessing avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem solving and coping strategies
 - developing self awareness and self esteem

Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and other influences.

2 Definition of drugs

2.1 The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

" A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

2.2 Throughout this policy the term 'drug' will refer to any substance that when taken into the body causes an alteration in normal behaviour, regardless of legality. This will include, for example:

- Medicines – prescription and "over the counter"
- Legal and illegal drugs
- Tobacco
- Alcohol

It must be remembered that all of these drugs are capable of being misused and can cause harm.

Devonshire Primary Academy –Drugs Education Policy

3 Organisation

- 3.1** 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 (for example, in science lessons).
- 3.2** Drug Education is integrated into our PSHCE curriculum in each year group. As such it may be taught as a discreet subject or through other subjects. All the topics are age appropriate. In Year 6 the children undertake a research topic where they 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 CSA.
- 3.3** 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.
- 3.4** All teaching staff will be responsible for Drug Education, and will strive to answer all children's direct questions in an open and factual way, where and when appropriate. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional.
- 3.5** A variety of health education, including drug education, resources are available in school. These will be kept in the PSHCE cupboard in the Year 6 building.

4 Equal Opportunities

- 4.1** In support of our equal opportunities policy, all children at Devonshire primary School, regardless of age, ability, gender, special needs or race will have the same opportunities to benefit from Drug Education in school.

5 Confidentiality

- 5.1** All staff will be made aware through training that we are unable to offer total confidentiality to children. Staff will make this clear to children (prior to disclosure) in a sensitive way to ensure that children are aware that staff **DO** wish to be helpful and supportive. School staff may suggest that other people need to be informed to enable the child to receive appropriate support. NB there is no legal duty for staff to pass on information about drug use but at Devonshire Primary School staff would discuss any concerns with the designated Child Protection Officer.

6 The role of the Headteacher

- 6.1** 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 Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 6.2** The Headteacher and PSHCE Co-ordinator 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.
- 6.3** The Headteacher and PSHCE Co-ordinator will monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Devonshire Primary Academy –Drugs Education Policy

- 6.4** The PSHCE Co-ordinator will also liaise with the CSA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

7 The role of governors

- 7.1** 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.

8 The role of parents

- 8.1** 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 children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
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;
inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.
Inform "Drug Governor".

9 Dealing with Incidents

- 9.1** All incidents will be treated and investigated in a serious but sensitive manner. Each incident will be considered individually based on the circumstances and dealt with confidentially following agreed procedures:
- ensure safety and well-being of child and other pupils
 - inform Drug Co-ordinator and Headteacher
 - investigate and obtain relevant information and/or substances
 - when appropriate Headteacher to inform parents and other relevant agencies record all incidents.
- 9.2** For further information and guidance refer to Appendix 2: SCODA 'Drug Situations'

10 Outside Agencies

- 10.1** Outside agencies may be invited into school to help deliver the drug education programme. These agencies may include the Police, School Nurse, Life Education Centres.
- 10.2** When outside agencies come into school it remains the school's responsibility for what is taught. Therefore prior consultation between the class teacher and outside agency is necessary.
- 10.3** It is important that the outside agencies work with and alongside the teachers. The teaching situation should always be led by a teacher the pupils know well.
- 10.4** Should disclosure occur relating to drugs and/or any other issue then it is important that the agency involved follows the correct school procedure as is stated in the Child Protection Policy.

11 Monitoring and review

- 11.1** Drug Education, will be monitored by the PSHE co-ordinator through short and medium term plans. Staff will evaluate and review the Drug Education regularly, with the help of pupils, and adjustments will be made as necessary.
- 11.2** The PSHE co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring the standards of children’s work and the quality of teaching. The co-ordinator supports colleagues in the teaching of Drug Education, by giving them information about current developments in the subject including changes in the law relating to drugs. She will also provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. We allocate time for our co-ordinator when required to enable her to review schemes of work and policies.
- 11.3** This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Signed:

Date: October 2017