

Policy for Drug Education

Values and Aims

Children live in a world where drugs have become commonplace and are used legally and illegally, in both a social context (e.g. tobacco, alcohol, tea, coffee) and in a medical context as prescribed and non-prescribed drugs.

In the context of this policy, a drug is defined as any substance to enter the body and which has an effect either harmful or otherwise.

The teachers and staff are all made aware of the effects drugs can have on children and all keep a vigilant watch on those in their care for any signs and symptoms. This has not been a problem for this school, but rather than be complacent, a preventative drug education programme is in place.

At William Austin, we recognise that adults are role models for children so we commit ourselves to:

- ensuring that school is a smoke-free environment according to law, both during the school day and at evening functions.
- not using alcohol on the school premises during school hours or while we have children in our care.
- administering medicines only at the request of parents. (These are retained in the Medical Room and are administered only by a qualified first-aider where the parent has completed an indemnity form).
- providing a quiet room (Medical Room) to avoid the need for over-the-counter drugs, eg. for headaches etc.
- ensuring medication for personal use is stored in a locked cupboard.

Rationale

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the school's policy for Safeguarding which details child protection procedures.

We aim to:

Enable children to make healthy, informed choices to help young people to develop a sense of awareness and self-esteem.

- to increase understanding about the implications and consequences.
- to listen to our pupils' own thoughts, feelings and concerns.
- to help young people distinguish between different substances.
- to help children understand how they can deal with peer pressure
- to counter any inaccurate messages.
- to widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- to enable children to identify where to find help and support.

Outcomes:

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- a co-ordinated and consistent approach
- an appropriate teaching programme
- clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs
- reinforcement of key messages
- considered content and a variety of teaching approaches
- integration of drug education into the curriculum
- training and support for staff
- regular review of policy and programme content

- recognising that adults are role models for children

Special Educational Needs

Additional support is provided where necessary and/or differentiated activities.

Teaching

Delivery could be:

- through planned elements of National Curriculum subjects including RE, PSHE/RHE, Science, and English
- through pastoral, circle and well-being time
- addressed occasionally in assemblies
- through occasional planned and negotiated visits from Police Liaison Officer
- through informal curriculum and opportunities for extra curricular activities

Ground rules will be established in each class to reflect sensitivity etc.

The work will be evaluated and assessed annually. A variety of informal evaluation activities are built into the programme. All staff will support the PSHE/RHE co-ordinator in the collation of information to provide a comprehensive and effective drug education programme.

Confidentiality

Staff will work within the boundaries of the Child Protection Policy and although some children may choose to mention instances of drug use, they must clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others.

The children should be advised periodically that if they find anything unusual or suspicious on the school field or in the toilets etc they should not touch them but tell a teacher immediately. This should be discussed sensitively in PSHE/RHE lessons with the class teacher.

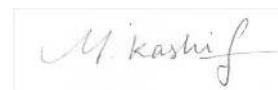
This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the head teacher on an annual basis.

Policy updated: January 2024

Staff responsible: Jo Adams

This policy was ratified by the Governing body: 24th January 2024

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:



M. Kashif - Chair of Governors (printed)