

Greens Norton C of E Primary School



Drugs Education Policy

GREENS NORTON C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

We firmly believe that at Greens Norton C. of E. Primary School we have a responsibility to promote a safe environment within which children can study and develop. The School also has a responsibility to discharge towards our children a duty of care. Both of these can best be achieved if the Governors and Staff support children and assist them in the recognition of unsafe environments and unsafe behaviour.

The growing use of all types of drugs in communities is a threat to the safety of a child's healthy development. Without this healthy development children are unlikely to grow, develop and realise their full potential.

The School has developed this policy for Drugs Education as part of its holistic approach to education. This policy centres on processes and mechanisms that will assist children by reducing the risk of them becoming consumers of unprescribed drugs. It has been devised to enable children to develop strategies for resisting social pressures to become drug consumers both now and in the future. This approach is in line with that advocated by the Government White paper "Tackling Drugs Together", the DFE Circular 4/95 "Drug Prevention and Schools" read in association with "Tackling Drugs In Primary School" NIADEAC 1996 (Northamptonshire Inter Agency Drug Education and Awareness Committee) and the LEA's 'Policy for Drug Education' (January 1996).

The School does not condone either the misuse of drugs, tobacco, alcohol and solvents by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

The 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.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- to raise awareness of the harm drugs can cause to the individual, the family and society
- to enable young people to make appropriate choices to enable them to effectively fulfil their responsibility as citizens.
- to help us establish links with outside agencies e.g. 'Life Education Centres' to: enhance the delivery of drugs education and to provide assistance to children in a variety of learning contexts
- to enable us to establish working policies in relation to the management of drug related issues which will involve:
 - shared responsibility
 - shared values
 - shared understanding and ownership
 - consultation
 - listening to adults and young people
 - a supportive guidance system
 - good relationships with outside agencies
 - effective links with the local community
 - understanding of the pressures and challenges in the locality/society.

The policy is based on 3 key issues:

1. Drug prevention is a multi-agency/family role.
2. Education in the area of self-awareness, self-confidence, understanding health and health promotion are the most effective ways of developing a long-term healthy and socially acceptable attitude towards drugs.
3. Because different drugs bring different risks, children need to understand the risks associated with smoking, alcohol, improper use of prescribed drugs as well as illegally obtained substances.

Implementation

Our Drugs Education will be provided in the broader context of the teaching of personal social and health education (PSHE) and Citizenship as part of a child's life skills and preparation for adulthood.

It will be delivered in the context of the school as part of the community, taking into account the local circumstances and culture.

It will provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice, delivered in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse.

Our programme will be delivered by teachers and other professionals with specific training in the requirements of drug education and issues relating to drug misuse and will be backed up with access to advice or help for children with problems or concerns.

Cross Curricular Links

The revised National Curriculum (2000) sets out the basic curriculum as follows:

The science Order requires that children are taught:

- * at Key Stage 1 "about the role of drugs as medicines"(Sc1 2d);
- * at Key Stage 2 "about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health"(Sc2 2g).

In science children also consider biological information and health and safety issues and also have the opportunity to assess evidence and draw conclusions.

The non-statutory guidelines for PSHE and Citizenship include 'Developing a healthy safer Lifestyle' in which 3d states;

Pupils should be taught at Key Stage 1,

'how to make simple choices which improve their health and well-being'
'that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly'

'rules for, and ways of, keeping safe, including basic road safety, and about people who can help them to stay safe'.

At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught;

'which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks,'

'that pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, and how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.'

'what makes a healthy lifestyle, including the benefits of exercise and healthy eating, what affects mental health, and how to make informed choices'

'that bacteria and viruses can affect health and that following simple, safe routines can reduce their spread'

'to recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly, including sensible road use, and judging what kind of physical contact is acceptable or unacceptable

'school rules about health and safety, basic emergency aid procedures and where to get help.'

Other subjects offer further opportunities to include drugs education too, for example:

English

- explore relevant issues through literature
- develop communication skills
- develop inter-personal skills through drama and role play
- make considered use of a range of reference materials

Religious Education

- develop understanding of moral issues
- develop skills to express their own views clearly
- consider the personal, social and moral consequences of their actions

Design Technology

- develop awareness of safety, hazards and risks (e.g. safe handling of solvents and glues)
- use information sources to assess the risk of unfamiliar materials
- take responsibility for the consequences of their actions for themselves and others

Physical Education

- develop positive attitudes towards health
- develop safety awareness

Management of Drug Related Incidents in School

The policy of the school is that any incident involving drugs that is seen to pose, or could pose a risk to any pupil should be reported immediately to the nominated responsible person.

The nominated responsible person is The Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher in his/her absence.

The Head teacher will take the appropriate action - this may involve parents, Social Services, the police and any other outside agency deemed appropriate.

The first concern is the welfare of the child and if any medical assistance is required this will be sought immediately.

If a child needs to go to hospital he/she will be accompanied by the Head teacher and parents informed.

Any substances or other evidence will be given to the Head teacher for safe keeping it may be handed over to the police for disposal (This should be witnessed and the substance locked away).

Where a child discloses to a teacher any drugs related information the teacher must make clear that no guarantee of confidentiality can be given owing to the seriousness of drug misuse.

If children are suspected of concealing drugs staff can ask children to turn out their pockets, empty bags etc in order to secure the voluntary production of any substances. If the child refuses the police should be called in to deal with the situation.

A member of staff should never make physical searches of children.

Any illegal drug related behaviour within the proximity of the school and its grounds whether or not involving a pupil will be reported to the police.

The Head teacher and/or LEA representative will deal with all media enquiries.

The Head teacher must retain the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking account of the factors involved.

Dissemination of the policy

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The school is 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
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Monitoring and Review

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