

Silverstone CE Primary School

Drug Education Policy

Silverstone CE Primary believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is our responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

This policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drug education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues. The policy forms an integral part of our existing health education and personal and social education programmes, and the drug education programme complements this.

Drugs Education

Silverstone CE Primary recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture which exists. Young people are challenged by the changing and sometimes conflicting values of society, which places demands on them to make informed and responsible choices. The School wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Research cites personal inadequacy, a lack of self-esteem and peer pressure as the main reasons for drug misuse among young people. This places a responsibility on the school to 'better prepare young people for adult life.' Drugs education is therefore an integral part of the school curriculum.

Drug Education in the classroom Teaching and Learning

Drug education is usually led by the class teacher with support from the Life Education Bus. Teaching includes books, leaflets and short video clips providing visual information in an age appropriate format. Each unit of drug education is age appropriate building on the knowledge and understanding from the previous year.

At KS1 the units include naming and understanding harmful chemicals in the home (including cleaning products) and that people need approved medicines if they are sick. In KS2 children learn about the effects of smoking, prescribed medication and drugs on the body as well as the differences between legal and illegal drugs (cannabis, cocaine etc.), volatile substances (glues, solvents and aerosols), age restrictions and the consequences associated with drugs. All drug education includes discussion of alcohol as a drug.

As well as dispelling any myths about drug education, units are aimed at improving self-esteem, building confidence and providing the children with the appropriate knowledge to make informed choices as they grow older, reducing risk taking, addiction and disease.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered and can be addressed later. We believe that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) co-ordinator.

Dealing with questions

- Teachers should establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting.
- Teachers should set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that pupils discuss issues in a way which does not encourage silliness.
- Pupils should be encouraged to write down questions anonymously and post them in a question box, the teacher will have time to prepare answers to all questions before the next session, and will choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate.
- If a verbal question is too personal the teacher should remind the pupils of the ground rules.
- If a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns about sexual abuse, the teacher should acknowledge it and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis.
- Teachers should not be drawn into providing more information than is appropriate to the age of the child.
- If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk of drug abuse the Designated Safeguard Leader should be informed and the usual child protection procedures followed.

Monitoring, evaluation and assessment

The programme is regularly evaluated by the PSHE co-ordinator. The views of students and teachers who deliver the programme are used to make changes and improvements to the programme on an on-going basis.

All pupils have a clear understanding of the aims and teachers are requested to assess the understanding of children inform the PSHE co-ordinator of the levels of understanding as well the needs of the children for future units.

Confidentiality and informing parents/carers

School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures about abuse are made.

Procedures For Handling and Reporting Incidents

If it is thought that someone in school has taken an illegal drug, is in possession of an illegal drug or is in danger due to drugs or alcohol, staff will follow the procedure below:

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A member of staff or pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A member of staff or pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A member of staff, parent or pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe.
- Send for support.
- Administer first aid if necessary.
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police.
- Report the incident.

Reporting

- The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Designated Safeguarding Leader and then to the head teacher, who will contact the police.
- The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation.
- The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the Designated Safeguarding Leader using the schools 'Safeguarding Concern Form'.