St Lawrence CE Primary School

Drugs Education and Dealing with

Drug-related Incidents Policy

Designated Drugs Action Co-ordinator:

Fiona Micklefield (Head Teacher)

Definition - What is a Drug?

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our bodies work.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. In line with both national advice and local guidelines, it covers drugs misuse by pupils and adults.

Rationale

St. Lawrence CE Primary School is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and we will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and to discourage the misuse of drugs.

Current research indicates that drug use, both legal and illegal, is prevalent amongst young people in and beyond Alton. As part of St. Lawrence CE Primary School's care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate children about drug use. Drugs are a reality in children's lives and schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills.

We also believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with fairly, consistently and clearly with regard to the needs

of the school and the individuals concerned. Fundamental to the school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of children with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times.

Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Purposes

- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug related incidents
- To develop a whole-school approach to drug education in the context of the Science curriculum and the Personal, Social, and Health Education/Wellbeing programme.
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs.
- To have a clear and agreed understanding within the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use.
- To contribute towards establishing an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs.

Guidelines

All pupils will follow a drug education programme (the PSHE Association approved resources) that is responsive to their needs and relevant to their age, experience and maturity. It will be delivered through the Wellbeing programme. It will focus on the development of self-esteem and decision making skills.

The school works with others to provide relevant information and co-ordinated support (e.g. Hampshire Police, Health Promotion Services, School Medical Team).

The school has a policy and procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Management of drug-related incidents

The Head Teacher will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

Within the school's Personal, Social and Health Education programme, the role of pupils in supporting each other and responding safely and effectively to emergencies including drug-

related incidents is made clear in a manner appropriate to the age and stage of development of each child.

Procedures

- Any member of staff who suspects a pupil of being involved in a drugs-related incident must report the matter immediately to the Head Teacher, who will ensure that the procedures as laid out in Hampshire County Council's policy are put into practice.

- If a pupil is found to be in possession of drugs or drug-related equipment on school premises, the parents/guardians will be informed immediately and will be asked to attend the school as a matter of urgency. In such a case, the school will also involve Hampshire Police in line with the authority policy.

Medicines - see policy on administration of medicines.

Tobacco - the whole school and school grounds are designated No-Smoking areas.

Alcohol - no alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. See PTA risk assessments for PTA events out of school hours. Alcohol brought onto the school premises for a PTA event or a teacher gift is kept away from children.

Solvents - the school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely, and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosol deodorants is not permitted because of the potential risks to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.

Illegal Substances - no illegal substances should be brought to school or used on school premises or at formal or informal events organised by the school.

Sanctions of appropriate severity will be applied in the event of intentional misuse of any of the substances described above by any member of the school community on the school premises or while on school activities, trips and visits.

Sanctions, up to and including exclusion will be applied for: -

- Possession of any illegal drug with the suspected intention to misuse
- Misuse of drugs on school premises

- Supplying/dealing drugs for the purposes of misuse

This is not just a policy for pupils but applies also to all adults working in or visiting St. Lawrence CE Primary School.

Conclusion

The welfare of our pupils and staff is of paramount concern and we shall work together with everyone involved with the school to ensure the continued education and wellbeing of all our children.

All staff must be aware of the contents of this policy, the implications for them and the education and welfare of pupils. The policy will be made available to parents through the usual channels.

Procedures for Managing Substance / Drug Related Incidents Involving Pupils.

N.B. Including tobacco, alcohol, solvents, correction fluids, aerosols, pills medicine, controlled drugs etc.

The Head Teacher is the school's designated Drugs Action Co-ordinator. All incidents must be logged on CPOMS and reported to the DSL or DDSLs.

- Stay calm
- Send for Head Teacher
- Ask for facts

1. What drugs are involved?
2. Have they been consumed?
3. By whom?
4. How much has been taken?
5. Has anyone else also taken the drugs?

- Ensure the safety of the pupil
- Isolate from others but do not leave the pupil alone. Confiscate the drugs and drug using equipment if open to view. (You do not have a right to search).
- Remind pupils of the school's policy on the use of alcohol and other drugs and on confidentiality - need to pass on the information to relevant sources (parents / police etc.)

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- Summon medical support if drugs have been consumed.
- Record the facts and store in a safe place and disclose on a need to know basis.
- If confronted by the media refer to Head Teacher. Do not be drawn into a conversation.
- Do not identify individuals to others - even other members of staff. The Head Teacher holds the responsibility for appropriate dissemination of information.

AT ALL TIMES ACT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUPIL

If in any doubt about a pupil's medical safety

1. Send for an ambulance
2. Arrange for an appropriate adult to accompany pupil(s) to hospital
3. Make sure the Head Teacher is contacted
4. Seek assistance from another member of staff
5. Arrange for safe removal of drugs and/or drug equipment in accordance with set procedure. To be retained as evidence.

Head Teacher's Role in Managing an Incident

- Contact police for advice/involvement.
- Inform parents of incident and that police have been contacted.
- Invite parents to school.
- Arrange interview of pupil(s) when recovered.
- After investigation, consider further action including exclusion and referral to support agencies.
- Provide feedback to staff involved in the incident
- Refer media enquiries to Hampshire Council press office.

What NOT TO DO in responding to a drug-related incident.

- Do not ask leading questions of the pupil/s involved.
- Do not interrogate or accuse.
- Do not assume guilt.
- Do not detain a pupil in a locked room or provide no access to food or drink.
- Do not remove or search personal belongings or conduct a body search.
- Do not pledge secrecy or keep drug related incidents to yourself.
- Do not rely on memory – make a note of the facts of the incident.

Our School Values:

Love, Compassion and Respect.

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- Do not identify – to a third party individuals or information, prejudiced to individual pupil's staff or the school.

Date Policy Issued: January 2024 (3 years review)
Date to be reviewed: January 2027

Head Teachers Signature
(Fiona Micklefield)

Chair of Governors
(Paul Susans)

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