



COMPASSION, ACCEPTANCE, RESPONSIBILITY, FORGIVENESS, TRUST

Our Christian Values

God teaches us to forgive and always accept forgiveness

We receive the Christian way of life as a gift from God

We believe and trust in God who loves each one of us

We are all unique children of God

Whatever you wish that men would do to you do to them

We are all equally precious and loved by God

DRUGS POLICY

Drugs education should be an important element of the PSHCE and Science curriculum. Substance and drugs misuse extend across all human boundaries and pupils of all abilities are potentially at risk. Here at Burham School it is expected that by the end of Key Stage 2, pupils should know about the risks and have the skills to resist substance and drugs misuse.

The sensitive nature of drugs education can cause concern among parents and teachers; however, successful drugs education should start early, the key to which is developing children's life skills.

Many children of primary school age have some knowledge of substances and drugs. Some older pupils know who to ask to obtain illegal drugs, whilst a small number witness drug taking by the caring adults and others in their lives. Children may have the knowledge of illegal drugs through the media, 'street talk' and personal experience.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services.

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave".

This refers to all drugs whether:

- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, GHB, anabolic steroids and khat
- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18 year olds including alcohol, tobacco, shisha and volatile substances (solvents)
- Drugs that are legal to use and buy such as poppers
- Over the counter and prescription medicines
- And other drugs such legal highs/Novel Psychoactive Substances that are illegal to sell for human consumption and e-cigarettes.

Aims

- To help pupils live a healthy life style now and in the future
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of substance and drugs misuse
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to avoid peer group pressures
- To minimise those who are misusing substances or who have concerns to be able to ask for help to enhance pupils' decision making skills
- To build pupils' decision making skills
- To build pupils' self esteem
- To enhance later parenting skills

Principles of teaching & learning

There are two aspects to drugs education - Knowledge & Life Skills and pupils should be taught:

Household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly

- Which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks.
- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

- To recognize their worth as individuals by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making amends and setting personal goals.
- To recognize the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly.
- 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.
- That their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other peoples feelings and to try to see things from their points of view.

In teaching drugs education, teachers should use a range of teaching strategies, including role-play, discussion group work, debate and circle time. The use of circle time can be a key strategy for developing life skills. In the circle, the teacher acts as a facilitator, giving information and guiding children. Pupils who are most at risk can often be helped using this strategy.

The intention is not to teach about physiological effects of drugs nor to sensationalise drugs but to provide a clear message that substance and illegal drugs can be dangerous. Life skills development is the key to helping pupils become informed decision makers.

What is taught?

We reflect the requirements and guidance in the science national curriculum and the non-statutory framework for PSHE and citizenship.

Schemes of Work & Lesson Plans

PSHCE and Citizenship scheme of work, must include drug education. A set of lesson plans for the Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 & 2 are all available to schools

Key Stage1 focuses on what are safe and unsafe substances, what medicines are, why people take them and how to take them safely, being ill and getting better and what to do if someone persuades you to take something dangerous

Key Stage 2 focuses on what a drug is, the effects and risks of drugs including tobacco and alcohol, managing peer influences and resisting pressure to take risks and be able to make safe decisions.

Our curriculum ensures that we are covering both the statutory requirement in science to teach Year 6 to recognise the impact of drugs on the way their bodies function and the non-statutory science guidance to teach Year 6 how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body and the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle and health.

Equal Opportunities

The school's equal opportunities policy will also apply to drugs education. Teaching materials should reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of society, avoiding stereotyping in terms of gender and race. Pupils' progress should be monitored to ensure that no pupil is

disadvantaged. The school will make every effort to respect and reflect pupils' religious beliefs and take community views into account when teaching drugs education. Parents should be consulted so that they feel welcome to discuss these issues with staff.

Differentiation & Special Needs.

Whilst some pupils may have a fairly broad knowledge and insight into the world of drugs, there are those who have little knowledge at all. Teachers need to be sensitive to this issue and lessons are planned to take account of pupils' age, experience and maturity. The needs of pupils with SEN should be taken into account by the Teacher who may need to provide different resources, different activities or specific support to some pupils.

Cross-curricular Links

Drugs education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills should be a theme throughout the curriculum, which should be embodied in the school's ethos.

Use of Visitors

Quality drugs education involves partnership with other agencies such as:

- School Police officer
- School Nursing Service
- Community Warden
- Youth & Community
- Educational Theatre (Theatre ADAD)
- Voluntary Organizations

Where visitors are used to support and extend classroom teaching, a teacher should always be present and retain overall responsibility in the classroom.

Staff Development

Some staff may feel daunted by the prospect of teaching drugs education but with an ongoing programme of professional development a good teacher will be able to discuss drug related issues in a structured way.

Parental Involvement

Many parents have great concerns about drugs and as the 'first educators' of their children, most want to develop and extend their child's awareness of the world so that they are able to make informed decisions.

Parents and teachers need to assess when the time is right for children to handle new ideas, concepts and knowledge.

Schools should make opportunities to consult parents about drug education. This may be through parent's meetings where issues can be discussed informally and specialist input provided if appropriate.

Procedure for Handling a Drug Related Incident.

- All unknown tablets, powders and substances should be regarded as possibly illegal

- All teachers have a duty of care and want to protect the child. It should be noted that the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act allows adults to remove unknown substances or drugs from a young person in order that she/he can be protected
- The substances or drug should then be handed to the headteacher who is responsible for disposing of it an appropriate way
- This may involve the school's youth crime reduction officer if the substance is believed to be illegal
- Where possible the drug should be removed from the child in the presence of a witness. This ensures that a 'street wise' child cannot accuse the adult of possession
- The drug can then be removed in the presence of the witness. The headteacher will then be informed
- If a pupil has taken a drug, or there is reasonable evidence to assume so, a trained first-aider should be called immediately and professional medical help will be sought
- The member of staff should then write a brief statement indicating the time, place and the circumstances in which the incident took place. The witness should counter sign the statement
- The substance or drug should be sealed in a clear plastic bag and locked away until the police arrive
- Where it is considered that the pupil has been at risk or it is thought that the drug or substance is illegal the pupil's parent or caring adult should immediately be asked to attend the school
- It will also be helpful to contact the youth crime reduction officer who will give appropriate advice or attend the school
- The substance or drug can then be handed to the officer as evidence and for disposal
- If it is established that the incident is drug related the headteacher will contact the chairperson of the governors to inform him/her of the situation
- Contact should also be made with the DSO and the KCC press office if it looks as though the media may become involved
- If necessary a search of desks, drawers and lockers and other school property where pupils are able to keep books, pencils and other possessions will be undertaken
- If further search is required, pupils' privacy will be respected, but pupils which there is concern can be asked to empty their pockets and bags. Most pupils will comply with such a request
- Where a pupil is unco-operative and where a youth crime reduction officer considers a search is justified the officer will undertake a search of pockets, clothing and bags. This will be carried out in the presence of a parent, caring adult or if this is not possible an appropriate adult who will be supplied by Social Services
- Teachers cannot guarantee confidentiality and where a pupil discloses information that indicates he/she is at risk the information needs to be passed immediately to the appropriate person (headteacher). A teacher should sensitively indicate to a pupil that confidentiality cannot be maintained preferably before any disclosure takes place.

Appendix 1

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

Definition of a drug-related incident

In this school, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorized and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries.

School responses to drug-related incidents

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- the head teacher and deputy will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- Permanent exclusion will not be the automatic response and will only be used in the most serious cases and as a final resort
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk. The Headteacher, in consultation with key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place.
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Procedures for managing incidents

Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Headteacher

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform Police immediately any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters, although we will contact the Police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol and solvents to under age students, from local shops.

Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using a safeguarding incident form. The form is given to the Headteacher and kept confidential in the school office.

In all drug-related incidents the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.

It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

Discovery/observation

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy.

If the substance is suspected to be illegal, staff can take temporary possession of it

- it will be confiscated, in the presence of a second member of staff as witness
- the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present and stored in a secure location (eg a safe or lockable container) with access limited to the Head and Deputy Head
- the pupil will be taken to the school office and the Head or Deputy Head called and the pupils questioned
- the police will be notified immediately, who will collect it and store or dispose of it, in line with locally agreed protocols.
- we will record details of the incident, including the police incident reference number
- we will inform the pupil's parents/carers and they will be asked to come into school, unless it is not in the best interests of the child to do so
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and sanctions response including internal exclusion whilst investigations are carried out.

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school) it will be disposed of or handed to the parent/carers.

Searches

Staff are allowed to confiscate pupil's property, as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so, including substances, whether legal or not.

If staff find other substances which are not believed to be illegal/controlled drugs these can be confiscated where staff believe them to be harmful or detrimental to good behaviour.

If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as an illegal drug.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is carrying illegal drugs on them or in their personal property, they will ask the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff. In circumstances where a pupil refuses to do this the member of staff will discuss with the Headteacher who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. The Headteacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then the Headteacher will authorise a senior member of staff. The search will take place in school or where staff have lawful control of pupils.

We will keep a record of the search and inform parents if a substance is found, although there is no legal requirement to do this or inform parents before or after a search or seek their consent to search a child.

Teachers can search pupils' bags/trays and in circumstances where a member of staff believes drugs have been stored there, they will seek the pupils' consent and search with a Senior member of staff present. If consent is refused the decision to search will be taken by the Headteacher.