

Churchside Federation

Drugs Policy

Adopted by LGB: May 2021

Introduction

Research has shown that by the age of 11, many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience. Together research shows that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The figures also suggest that the first age of experimentation is decreasing and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both illegal and illegal drugs. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' stated that schools had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- Increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- Reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- Reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

We believe that drugs education should provide:

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to other adults besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in a challenging and safe atmosphere where they feel secure enough to play a full and active part

We aim to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Other Links

Administration of Medicines, Behaviour, Confidentiality, Health & Safety, Healthy Schools, PSHE, Safeguarding, Science

Definition

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply:

"a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave"

This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication, legal/illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) volatile substances and all over the counter and prescription medicines.

Alcohol This is not permitted at any time on the school site or during school visits except on special occasions at the discretion of the Head teacher and when staff are not acting in loco-parentis.

Smoking We are a smoke free school and staff, parents, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises or in sight of the school. Smoke free signage is prominent around our school grounds.

E-cigarettes (sometimes known as nicotine vaporisers)

Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation we will not allow the use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school premises and strongly discourage parents using them when collecting their children from school.

Curriculum

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

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.

The Subject Leader for Science has responsibility for monitoring drug education teaching and learning in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Managing drug related incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the school's commitment to:-

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drugs

Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Executive 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 Trading Standards

or 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 drugs incident form. The form is given to the Executive Headteacher and kept confidential in the school office.

In all drug-related incidents the Executive 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.

Medical emergencies when a pupil is unconscious as a result of drug use

Staff with first aid qualifications should be called immediately but the pupils not left alone. The pupil will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately. Parents/carers will be informed immediately.

Intoxication, when a pupil is under the influence of a drug

The pupil will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and Executive Headteacher called. The pupil will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school.

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 Executive Headteacher and Head of School
- the pupil will be taken to the school office and the Executive Headteacher and Head of School 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/carer.

Searches (also see Behaviour Policy)

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 Executive Headteacher who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. The Executive Headteacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then they 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 Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

Dealing with drug-taking materials

School site staff make regular checks of the school grounds and know how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice.

Pupils are taught what to do if they come across needles on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.

Disclosure when a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use.

In these situations, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Executive Headteacher and Head of School should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

Suspicion / Rumour.

Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the pupil(s) involved.

Intoxicated parents/carers

Our schools rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

Needs of pupils

We are sensitive to the needs of students whose parent/carers or family members have problems with drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, we will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Local Governing Body at least once every two years