



Drug Education Policy

Policy Creation and Review	
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Introduction:

At New City Primary we believe that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

This policy uses the definition that a drug is 'a substance which people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2014). This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines (all over-the-counter and prescription medicines), all legal drugs (including tobacco, alcohol, solvents/volatile substances which can be inhaled) and illegal drugs.

In addition to clarifying our aims and objectives for drug education, this policy also outlines our zero-tolerance policy on all drugs (unless an authorised drug) and the management of drug-related incidents.

Drugs in School:

New City Primary has a zero-tolerance drug policy. The school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug) which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term-time, on school visits, school journeys/residential and at school social events. These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and those working in and visiting the school.

Alcohol in School :

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Headteacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school. There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parent/ carer events and staff social events. Staff accompanying pupils on school trips and journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils.

Smoking in School:

We are a smoke free school and staff, parents and carers, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke, including the use of e-cigarettes or vapes, anywhere on school premises or in sight of the school. For more information please see the 'Smoke free school' policy.

Drug Education for Pupils:

New City adopts a whole school approach to drug education, educating pupils both through discrete in-class lessons (primarily within the PSHE curriculum), assemblies and external visitors.

At New City, we recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class.

At Key Stage 1, children learn about being safe with medicines and household substances, making healthy, informed choices and following safety rules.

At Key Stage 2, children learn about the effects of alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

Teaching about safety and relationships as part of PSHE education contributes to how schools approach the safeguarding of pupils. It helps them to recognise when they and others are at risk and equips them with the skills, strategies and language they need to take appropriate action, such as resisting pressure or persuasion to engage in dangerous or unhealthy practices, and to feel confident in approaching an appropriate adult for help.

Managing Drug-related Incidents:

Guiding principles:

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole. The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents/carers are encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

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

- The Headteacher and members of the Leadership Team 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 into account 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
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Possible responses might be:

- Support and counselling
- Sanctions: where school rules are broken related to drug use, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the Behaviour Policy.

Procedures:

It is very rare for primary aged pupils to misuse drugs in school; however, we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur. All drug related incidents are reported to the Headteacher. The Headteacher in consultation with key staff will decide on the response.

Hearsay/Rumour:

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteacher or another DSL who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of teacher's concerns to be compiled.

Suspicious Behaviour:

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

Searches:

If staff find 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 staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as an illegal drug. The school will keep a record of any searches taken and inform parents/carers if a substance is found.

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

The caretaker makes regular checks of the school grounds and knows 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 suspicious materials such as needles on the school premises and know not to touch them and inform a member of staff immediately.

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteacher, or her representative, may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies.

Staff should not search a pupil's person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking them to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil, the pupil should a police officer will be required and an appropriate adult (i.e. a child's caregiver) should also be present. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance.

Finding substances:

If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a member of the Senior Leadership Team. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed.

If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- the date and time of the find or retrieval
- the size and appearance of the substance
- the names of those concerned
- the action taken

- Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes, should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed.

Medical Emergencies:

If an individual has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm (is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated) medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety. Parents will be notified immediately.

Child Protection / Confidentiality:

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice; however, staff cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE programme and curriculum areas. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information.

If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of pupils they must inform the Headteacher or DSL. If a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use staff will be non-judgemental and caring and show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that staff cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or a DSL should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

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. Our school 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 we are concerned that a pupil is at risk then we will follow the school's Child Protection procedures.

We are sensitive to the needs of pupils who live within families where there is evidence of drug abuse. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a pupil discloses, we will assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and, if needed, involve external support for the pupil and, where appropriate, for the family.

Links to other policies:

- PSHE policy
- Smoke free school policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Statement
- Health & Safety Policy
- Medicines, Health & Hygiene Policy
- Safeguarding policy

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Provision for drug education, including the personal development of pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, the PSHE leader and the class teachers. This will be done by checking that whole school drug education objectives are met and standards of teaching and learning expected are achieved. A record of any breaches of this policy will be kept and this policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher on a periodic basis in light of the findings of the record.