



# Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Written July 2016  
To be reviewed July 2018

West Cliff Primary School believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the schools 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.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, 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 aim of this policy**

The drugs policy forms part of the PSHCE scheme of work that West Cliff Primary School uses with their pupils. It is the aim of the school, through this delivery, to ensure that all children work together in a secure, caring, stimulating, challenging, warm, friendly and supportive environment.

The aim of drug education is to provide an opportunity for pupils to explore and develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to drugs and drug related issues to enable them to make informed decisions. It is the aim of the school to ensure all children in its care have the best possible skills and appropriate information to enable them to make informed decisions about keeping themselves safe and choosing a healthy lifestyle.

## **The objectives of drug education are:**

To increase pupils knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:



- The short/ long term effects and risks of drugs.
- The rules and laws relating to drugs.
- The impact of drugs
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities.
- The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers.
- The complex, moral, social, economical and political issues surrounding drugs.

To develop pupils personal and social skills in order to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy including:

- Assessing, avoiding and managing risks
- Communicating effectively
- Resisting pressures
- Finding information, help and advice
- Developing self-awareness and self esteem

To enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influence.

Drug education is delivered through the PSHCE curriculum because it focuses on providing pupils with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes.

Teachers are expected to use the following:

- The non-statutory framework for PSHCE and citizenship at key stage 1 and 2.
- The statutory requirements within the new national curriculum for science as a basis of developing drug education.

The program for drug awareness can be delivered through a variety of methods including circle time, role play, drama, poetry, writing plays, painting, hot seating, group discussion, draw/ write activities, ICT and videos, chemist visits, talking to the school nurse etc.

### **Specific Issues of Drug Education**

*Child protection/ confidentiality.*

The staff member will inform the head teacher (Christina Zanelli- Tyler- designated child protection person) in line with LEA procedures for child protection.

*Dealing with sensitive/ difficult questions*



If teachers are faced with an uncomfortable question, provision would be made to meet the children's needs.

#### *Use of visitors*

West Cliff Primary School may use outside agencies to help with the delivery of the drug education programme. For example the school nurse.

#### *Differentiation*

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of all children.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students learning by sampling teachers planning and teacher and child questionnaires. Feedback will be discussed at staff meetings. Children's yearly assessment will be passed onto the next teacher every school year.

### **What is a drug?**

A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. Drugs include:

- Alcohol and tobacco
- 'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics.
- Volatile substances such as aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as ecstasy.

### **What is a drug related incident?**

A drug related incident is defined at West Cliff Primary School as:

- Suspect drug found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected or found of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil or adult suspected of being under the influences of drugs
- It may also refer to incidents outside of school which directly affect West Cliff Primary School children.

### **Procedures for handling and reporting incidents:**

All staff are aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be followed.

When an incident occurs the member of staff will:



- 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 and dealt with by the police (do not touch.)
- Report the incident.

### **Reporting the incident**

The incident in the first incidence will be reported to the head teacher (Christina Zanelli- Tyler) 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, the head teacher and the PSHCE co-ordinator (Emma Smith.) If incidents involve a child then the head teacher, as designated child protection officer, will consult all relevant agencies.

### **School Searches**

If the head teacher has reasonable grounds that drugs are being supplied or used on the school premises they will take appropriate steps to inform the relevant bodies in order to avoid any liability as a 'manager or occupier' of premises. If a search needs to be made the Head teacher will conduct this with appropriate witnesses. The school will decide whether to involve parents/ carers in personal searches of school property. Issues such as confidentiality, child protection, police intervention and referral to external agencies need to be given careful attention to safeguard the needs of those involved and to ensure an appropriate response is taken.

### **Taking temporary possession of a substance**

The school will follow the law in that it permits school staff to take possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purpose of preventing an offence from being committed in relation to that drug, providing that all responsible steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. This will usually be performed with the assistance of the police on occasions which do not involve alcohol or tobacco (which will be destroyed on the premises.) In issues concerning drug paraphernalia the police will be contacted.

If a staff member has taken possession of a substance for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing an offence they should wear gloves when handling. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place, the designated member of staff notified and the police contacted.



### **Named member of staff**

Christina Zanelli- Tyler (Head teacher) is the named member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the schools response to drug incidences.

### **Suspension or permanent exclusion**

Where schools feels it has no choice but to suspend or expel pupils, it needs to ensure that there are adequate and appropriate care pathways available to the young people and their families/carers.

### **Medication**

There are a number of pupils in school that may require medication to be administered during the school day. Pupils with medical conditions requiring this on a regular basis will be made known to all staff.

#### *Asthma*

Medication for pupils, if Asthma related, is kept by the children in their classrooms and administered by themselves, as and when necessary.

#### *Other medication*

If a child is attending school and requires medication during the day, the parents/ carers are requested to call at school to give the relevant dose or allow a member of administration staff to administer it.

#### *Medical list*

A list of pupils with medical conditions is updated at the start of each new academic year, and each class teacher has the list appropriate to their class. A whole school list of pupils with medical conditions is also available in the school office. In addition, posters in the staff room provide information of children's medical needs from reception to year 6.

#### *First aid*

The school has a number of staff that are trained first aiders. The children know how to gain help via the staff and dinner time supervisors.

### **Alcohol, tobacco and the management of solvents**

The school premises is an alcohol free zone. No alcohol is to be brought onto/ consumed on the premises. This rule applies to visitors, staff and pupils. Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the Head teacher. Pupils will be dealt with under the schools discipline policy.



No one is permitted to smoke on the school premises. Adults breaking this rule will be advised by other members of staff. Pupils will be dealt with under the schools discipline policy.

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvents or aerosols into school. This includes tippex fluids, glue, marker pens and spray deodorants. All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and usage of solvents in their classroom. Where possible they should be locked away when not in use. The cleaners and caretaker should also ensure that their stores are locked when not in use and that solvents are held in a secure place.

**The whole school community shares a responsibility in the successful implementation of this policy.**

