



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

DATE AGREED: DECEMBER 2017
REVIEW DATE: DECEMBER 2019

Rationale

It is the aim of this policy is to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, children need to understand that all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, children need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Why Teach Drugs Education?

The teaching of Drugs Education is essential. The DFE 'Drug Education Curriculum Guidance for Schools' booklet indicates that:-

"There is justified public concern about the incidence of drug misuse among the young. The average age of first misuse of drugs appears to be falling, and the range of drugs available is expanding. Drug misuse now affects many communities in the country and crosses gender, ethnic and social boundaries. Drugs Education provides children with information about what is good and what is harmful and gives them the skills to use this knowledge. Schools alone cannot solve the problem of drug misuse in society but an effective programme of Drug Education in schools can be an important step in tackling it."

Definition

A drug is defined as a substance that can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically.

This policy will encompass all drugs: -

- ..Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicines.
- ..Volatile substances e.g. glue, petrol, aerosols, butane.
- ..Alcohol
- ..Tobacco
- ..Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine, knat.
- ..Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, heroin, ecstasy.

Aims and Objectives:

We have identified the following aims and objectives: -

- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.

To achieve our aim we have drawn up a list of primary objectives: -

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
- To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse.
- To persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help
- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.
- To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drugs education as a vehicle.
- To develop sympathetic yet realistic attitudes to others experiencing drug problems and understand ways in which those people can be helped.

Methodology

We use a wide variety of teaching approaches to convey our Drug Education messages, including:-

- Circle Time
- Role Play
- Discussions and activities with a class, group or individual basis.
- Educational visits and visitors
- The use of relevant T.V. programmes, videos, internet sites and other media.
- Whole school activities.
- Assemblies.

Curriculum Content

Certain aspects of Drugs Education are a statutory requirement as part of the National Curriculum Science Order. This states that pupils should be taught: -

At Key stage 1 (5 - 7 years) about the role of drugs as medicines.

At key stage 2 (7 - 11 Years) about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health.

Moreover, the National Curriculum Council has published 'Curriculum Guidance 5 Health Education'. It breaks the Health Education Curriculum into nine components, the first being 'substance use and misuse'.

Content of Learning

We at Swallowdale Primary School feel there are three strands to teaching Drugs Education effectively.

These are: -

Knowledge and understanding, Skills, Attitudes

Teaching these strands throughout the child's life will enable us to accomplish our main aim of enabling our pupils to make healthy informed choices.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of the implementation of the document will be undertaken by the Drugs Education co-ordinator . By the end of the academic year, it is planned that all staff will be employed in the evaluation of this policy. The suitability and effectiveness of the policy shall be reviewed every year. This will take into account any changing trends or new initiatives.

Equality of Opportunity

It is important that the children are given a broad and balanced view of the world we live in.

Drugs Education is essential if we want our children to grow up with the knowledge and strategies required to recognise and reduce drug misuse within the community. All children at Swallowdale Primary from Foundation upwards will receive some form of Drugs Education. This will be presented in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse. When using primary or secondary materials, children should be encouraged to think about who it has been written by and question whether stereotype images are being portrayed.

Staff Training

School based INSET will be provided to enable staff training to take place. External agencies may be invited to provide school based support. When deemed necessary, the school will send individual staff on courses to maintain an up to date approach.

Use of Outside Speakers

Many people may find that visiting speakers such as a local health promotion officer can fulfil a valuable expert role. However there should be no question of teachers abdicating their responsibility for Drug Education by simply arranging an outside talk or screening a video. Where outside speakers are involved, their contribution should have been properly planned as part of an overall programme and should complement other teaching. The tone and substance of any input should match the age and maturity of the pupils involved. Teaching staff should always be fully aware of the content of any external input.

Parental/Carer Involvement

Swallowdale School will encourage parents/carers to support their efforts on drug awareness and prevention. Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss their concerns and share this policy about the teaching of drug awareness. Parents are advised by letter from the class teacher, prior to any teaching of drug awareness. This allows them the opportunity to ask questions or raise any concerns regarding the content with the class teacher. Parents are able to access the policy through our school website and are available upon request from the School Office. All forthcoming workshops or visits from external agencies are included in the newsletter, the school diary on our website.