

## WELLESLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

### WELLESLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- This document is a statement of rationale, purposes and broad guidelines for dealing with drugs at Wellesley Primary School.
- This policy has been updated following the publication of the new Drugs in Schools guidance document (2004).
- Drug education is entitlement for every pupil and is supported by Section 351 of the Education Act 1996. It forms part of the statutory curriculum requirements for Science and the non-statutory requirements for PSHE&C (National Curriculum 2000).
- This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working with schools. It applies on the school premises or on any school activity where the member of staff has charge. It is effective within the school premises from 8.30am - 4.15pm and at other times through individual judgement in conjunction with the head teacher.

#### **DEFINITION - What is a drug?**

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way the body works.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

#### **RATIONALE**

Current research indicates that both legal and illegal drug use has risen amongst young people. As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils we believe we have a duty to inform and educate children about drug use. Drugs are a reality in young people's lives: schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills.

#### **AIMS**

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education within the context of the national curriculum for Science and PSHE&C.
- To enable all our pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills.
- To provide accurate information about a range of legal and illegal drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol and tobacco.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of advice and support, for example parents/teachers.
- To have a clear understanding within the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use. For example, risks to health and legal requirements.
- To establish an atmosphere which is free from the misuse of any drug.
- To enable staff to manage drugs on the school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.
- To respond to any individual within the school community in need of support.
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

## **GUIDELINES**

- Pupils at all Key Stages will follow an integrated drug education programme relevant to age, experience and maturity. This will be delivered through Science and PSHE&C lessons.
- Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of all our pupils.
- Parents will be informed about drug education through newsletters, awareness raising sessions and individual discussions where appropriate.
- Staff should receive training and support to help them deliver effective drug education and respond to situations with consistency and sensitivity, taking account of religious, social and cultural issues.
- School should work with other agencies, e.g. Health Service, Police, South Gloucestershire Council, to provide relevant information.
- There is a procedure for the management of drug related incidents agreed by Staff and Governors, and of which parents and pupils are made aware.
- The drug education programme will be evaluated on a regular basis through pupil feedback and staff discussion.

## **CONTENT -**

Topics will include

- ❖ Keeping myself safe - things in bottles and packets
- ❖ Making choices
- ❖ Right and wrong
- ❖ Keeping safe - people who will help
- ❖ Using medicines safely
- ❖ Resisting pressure
- ❖ Alcohol and tobacco
- ❖ Solvents and illegal drugs
- ❖ Media influences

## **DELIVERY**

- Drug Education will be delivered through themes and topics as identified in the school's PSHE&C schemes of work and in the Science units in the Science scheme of work. Use will be made, where appropriate, of cross-curricular links.
- All topics will be introduced at the appropriate stage in a child's learning and personal development.
- Work will be covered with individuals, groups or the whole class, as necessary.
- Aspects of drug education will be delivered by the class teacher, or invited visitors where appropriate.
- Teachers should ensure that all pupils are fully involved in lessons by using a variety of interactive and participatory teaching methods.
- Work should be differentiated according to ability and experience.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that children who have missed lessons are given access to the relevant materials.

Resources are stored within the relevant classrooms.

## **MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

The Headteacher will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug related incidents.

## **Procedures**

- Medicines - refer to the school's policy on the Administration of medicines.
- Tobacco - see No Smoking Policy.
- Volatile Substances - the school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosols will be banned because of potential risks to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.
- No illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on the school premises. Appropriate sanctions will be taken for an intentional misuse of substances described above. This could include exclusion of pupils and disciplinary action against staff. Staff should report incidents to the Head Teacher who would make a decision about appropriate action according to the seriousness of the offence. It is important that drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Ground rules should cover issues such as teachers' and pupils' right to privacy and respect. Pupils and teachers should be discouraged from revealing any personal information that may incriminate them or others, or that they wish to remain confidential. Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to pupils.

## **DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

The attached matrix describes how this school will deal with a range of incidents (see appendix). The school will decide when and if to inform the police (in accordance with police guidelines). The Headteacher will be informed of all drug-related incidents and records will be kept using the flow chart and incident form (see appendix).

On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. In such instances the school may discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made. Where the behaviour of a parent/carer under the influence of drugs places a child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police. All staff should ensure that there is a witness to any discussion involving drug related matters.

## **MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

- There will be evidence in teachers' planning of the coverage of drug education..
- Children will be asked to participate in an evaluation process of their drug education at the end of each drug related topic. This will enable staff to address any concerns and adjust future planning.

## **MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**

There is no misuse of drugs by pupils or staff on school premises.

Staff are aware of procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

A drug education programme relating to Science and PSHE&C is in place and being regularly evaluated and reviewed.

This policy will be made available to parents/carers as required.

## **CONCLUSION**

The welfare of our pupils and staff is of paramount concern and we shall work together to ensure the continued well being of all our children.

All staff and parents will be made aware of this policy and its implications for them and the welfare of pupils.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following policies:-

Health and Safety; Administration of Medicines; No smoking; Child Protection; Science and PSHE&C.

Reviewed: Summer 2011

Review Date: Summer 2012