

The Priory Primary Academy Trust

Drugs Education Policy

Incorporating the management of drugs related incidents
January 2012
Reviewed annually by the governing body



Introduction

The Head Teacher in his/her role as the PSHE and Citizenship co-ordinator is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff, liaising with external agencies to support the curriculum and developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy. The Head Teacher is also responsible for managing drug-related incidents and for liaising with external agencies to support pupils vulnerable to drug misuse.

This policy was drafted by the PSHE and Citizenship co-ordinator, and discussed at a staff INSET, which included the teaching and non-teaching staff. Pupils from Year 6 and members of the School council were consulted and parents were also asked for their views.

We have taken account of key national and local guidance including:

- Drugs: Guidance for schools issued by DfES
- National Healthy School Standard, Drug Education Guidance

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other relevant policies including for example PSHE and Citizenship policy, Health and Safety, No Smoking and Safeguarding.

Definition of drugs

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". This is also used by the DCFS in its drugs guidance. This refers to all drugs:

- legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and poppers
- over the counter and prescription medicines
- illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD
- other drugs such as anabolic steroids, volatile substances (solvents), Ketamine and Khat.

Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

Aim

At the Priory Primary Academy, we aim to educate our children about drugs in a safe and supportive environment. We believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognize that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs

can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- give a clear view on the use of drugs in school
- provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the School
- give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education
- give guidance on the administration of medicines.

Drug education

Aims of drug education

To give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drug use.

To achieve this, our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self awareness; negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences.

What is taught

Drug education focuses on knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. The teaching programme ensures that there is progression from the Foundation Stage to Year 6 with topics and issues being included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.

- **Key Stage1** focuses on medicines and how to be safe, being ill and getting better, being safe with household substances and risks.
- **Key Stage 2** focuses on effects and risks of smoking and alcohol, resisting pressure to do wrong and making safe decisions.

The content reflects:

- the statutory elements of the Science National curriculum
- aspects of the non-statutory framework for PSHE and Citizenship.

In order to ensure that the drug education programme reflects the views of pupils and is appropriate and relevant to them, pupils take an active part in planning the programme through:

- consultations with pupils through the Academy Council

- completing end of topic evaluations
- assessments at the beginning of teaching drug education to establish prior knowledge and understanding.

The drug education curriculum is reviewed as part of the annual PSHE and Citizenship review led by the PSHE and Citizenship co-ordinator and based on pupil and teacher evaluations.

Drug education is taught mainly through PSHE and Citizenship and through relevant topics in science e.g. My Body.

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values as well as learn knowledge, practise skills to cope with drug-related situations and engage actively in their own learning. Such activities may include role play, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Pupils work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, so that they experience working with lots of different pupils in the class, as well as in friendship groups.

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that pupils and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught by the class teacher. Occasionally, external agencies such as the Police or the "Life Education Classroom" visit the School to offer appropriate workshops.

How pupils' learning is assessed

Pupils' progress in drug education is assessed as part of PSHE and Citizenship assessment and Science assessment. Pupils' knowledge, attitudes and skills are assessed through a range of methods including end of topic self assessment and teacher assessment.

How it is monitored and evaluated

Monitoring and evaluation help plan future lessons and improve the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. A range of methods are used including lesson observations and looking at pupils' work. Staff and children provide informal feedback to the Head Teacher, following the visits of outside agencies.

Training and support for staff

All staff who teach drug education have opportunities to update their knowledge and develop their skills through continuing professional development activities. Information and teaching strategies gained from training are shared with other staff through staff meetings and INSET.

Management of drugs in school

School's view about the use of drugs

The Priory Primary Academy does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorized 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 and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents, governors and those working and visiting the School.

Management of authorized drugs

We believe that there are circumstances, when some legal drugs are authorized for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

Staff members are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect pupils in their class.

Prescribed medicines

A member of staff, specified from time to time, will administer medication to children following the completion of a consent form from the parent/carer.

Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals e.g for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy.

Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parent's events and staff social events. Staff members accompanying pupils on field trips or school journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils.

Smoking policy

This is a no smoking school and smoking is not allowed anywhere on the premises. Further information may be found in the no smoking policy.

Management of drug-related incidents

Definition of a drug-related incident

In the Academy, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorized and therefore not permitted within the School boundaries.

Drug related incidents in a primary school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve:

- pupils smoking cigarettes in school
- a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk
- pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils
- misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler
- disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem
- giving medicines to another pupil
- a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes at a local newsagents
- the caretaker finding used syringes in the playground.

School responses to drug-related incidents

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

- the Head Teacher will be informed immediately

- all situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- the needs of the student will always come first, whilst also taking account of 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
- a range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses
- if at all possible, permanent exclusion will be the final resort
- any action taken will be in line with the School's behaviour policy
- decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk. The Head Teacher, in consultation with key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place
- incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors.

Possible responses might be:

Support and counselling

If a pupil had a concern about drugs or was involved in a drug related incident or was themselves at risk of drug misuse, we will seek support from our Education Welfare Office and if appropriate refer to a specialist agency.

Sanctions

Where an Academy rule related to drug use, is broken, 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 Head Teacher and will be consistent with the behaviour policy. In the unlikely event of an incident involving illegal drugs, permanent exclusion will be considered and used if needed.

Procedures for managing incidents

Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Head Teacher.

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.

Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using a drugs incident form. The form is given to the Head Teacher and kept confidential in the Academy office.

In all drug-related incidents the Head Teacher, 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 at The Priory Primary Academy.

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 and called to the Academy.

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

The pupil will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. Mrs. Collisson and the Head Teacher will be called. The pupil will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the Academy.

Discovery/observation

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on the Academy premises and which is described in this policy, the substance will be confiscated and the pupil and substance taken to the Head Teacher. The parent/carer will be informed and called to the Academy.

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school) it will be handed to the parent/carer.

If the substance is illegal (or suspected to be illegal) it will be stored securely and the Police called immediately to dispose of the substance. The parent/carer will be informed and called to the Academy. The pupil(s) involved will be internally excluded whilst investigations are carried out.

If a member of staff suspects that a pupil is carrying drugs on them or in their personal property, they cannot carry out personal searches but will ask pupils to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff. In circumstances where a pupil refuses to do this, the Academy will consider involving the police, parents/carers will be informed if this happens.

Dealing with drug-taking materials

The caretaker makes regular checks of the Academy 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 needles on the Academy 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 Head Teacher or Deputy 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

The Academy 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.

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, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE and Citizenship programme. 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 children, they must inform the Head Teacher.

Working with parents/carers

The Academy welcomes parents/carers who wish to share with us their concerns about drugs. We give up to date information about drugs and where they can get further information, help and advice.

A copy of this policy is available on request from the Academy office or may be downloaded from the School website at <http://www.theprioryprimaryschool.org>.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the young person at risk of abuse and in these exceptional cases, the Academy will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Head Teacher in liaison with the SENCO (Special Needs co-ordinator) with the child's welfare a priority.

Involving police

In most cases a drug-related incident will be a school, rather than a police matter. However the Academy will contact the local police officer immediately if an illegal (or suspected illegal) drug has been found on the School premises, on a pupil or illegal drug dealing is taking place. We will only call 999 in an emergency.

We have strong links with the local police and involve them in the drug education curriculum and the policy review.

Reviewing the policy

This policy is reviewed every two years by the governors. If an incident should occur, the policy is reviewed in the light of that incident. The review will include feedback from the evaluations of drug education, included in the annual review of PSHE and Citizenship.