

# Paisley Primary School - Drug Education Policy

There is concern amongst many about the misuse of drugs in society. Research has proven that the average age of drug misuse is falling and that primary school children are becoming increasingly aware of illegal drugs and the misuse of these and other drugs. We therefore believe that drug education is essential to ensure understanding and enable children to make sensible, informed choices throughout their lives.

Primarily drug education is linked with health education but it also permeates other areas such as child protection, P.S.H.E and science. It is because it is common to other areas that it has been decided to address drug education in a policy of its own.

## **Aims and objectives.**

Due to the changes in society the need has now been created for our school to have a greater sense of drug awareness. The aims of this policy are to address the need for a greater awareness of drugs and to provide children with sufficient knowledge and understanding to make healthy decisions within given situations.

## **Definition of term 'drugs'**

A drug is any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates change in perception and/or in mood and/or in how the body functions. The drugs included in this policy are:

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, ecstasy, heroin
- Over-the counter medicines e.g. cough mixtures, paracetamol
- Prescription medicines e.g. tranquillisers
- Tobacco
- Volatile substances that are sniffed e.g. petrol, butane, aerosols, glue

## **The curriculum**

Drug education is a cross-curricular area that should be taught within other subject areas as they naturally arise within each half term.

## **Foundation Stage**

(The objectives for the foundation stage are addressed through the Early Learning Goals)

Pupils should: -

- 1) know that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances.

## **Key Stage One**

(Drugs education in key stages one and two forms part of the P.S.H.E schemes of work. Paisley has adopted the LEAs long-term plan which is based on the Health for Life publications and ensures coverage of the guidelines for P.S.H.E in curriculum 2000)

Pupils should; -

- 1) know that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) about the role of drugs as medicine
- 3) know that all substance can be harmful if not used properly
- 4) know that there are different types of medicine and that some people need them to live a normal life
- 5) know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances

## **Key Stage Two**

Pupils should be taught; -

- 1) that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks
- 3) about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how they relate to their personal health
- 4) to recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly
- 5) that pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, and how to ask for help and basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong
- 6) the important and beneficial part which drugs have played in society

## **Assessment**

The elements of drug education that form part of the science curriculum must be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. The learning from the other elements of drug education should also be assessed as part of overall PSHE provision. Assessment should identify knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes gained and developed. It should include formative, summative, teacher, pupil and peer assessment.

The PSHE Co-ordinator has overall responsibility for monitoring Drugs education within the school with feedback from Key Stage Co-ordinators, senior staff and teaching staff. The 'Drug Education Policy' will be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the schools healthy school audit and action plans.

## **Teaching approaches/liaison with outside agencies**

Wherever drug education is located in the curriculum it should be explicitly planned as part of a cohesive and progressive programme. It is important that drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Drugs education needs to be taught in the same ways as other curriculum subjects, through discussion, role-play, group and class work, using appropriate ICT and outside agencies.

The co-ordinators liase regularly with LEA advisors and members of DART who have assisted in producing this policy, and in offering INSET to staff. The co-ordinators will work co-operatively with other agencies such as the police, social services, school nurse etc as required. Where possible outside agencies will be asked to support the drug education curriculum, e.g. Captain Kipper, Life Caravan.

## **Information to parents**

The school operates an 'open door' policy for parents and actively seeks to work with them and support them. Details of the drugs policy, procedures and the names of co-ordinators are available upon request.

## **Role of the co-ordinators**

(The Drug education co-ordinator is Ruth Bell)

- To ensure all staff have appropriate schemes of work to include in their planning and that these schemes are updated when necessary.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and school procedures when dealing with drug related incidents
- To liaise with social services, police, school nurse and other agencies as appropriate.
- To organise INSET to ensure teachers have the appropriate level of awareness to enable them to deliver the curriculum appropriately.
- To ensure own knowledge is updated when needed and that this information is disseminated to staff.
- To keep detailed records of any drug related incidents.

## **Targets**

- To make direct links into the P.S.H.E policy and schemes of work to provide opportunities for discussion and developing an awareness of drugs in order to make healthy and informed choices throughout their lives.
- To develop all staff's understanding of drug issues through further INSET from the police and SSMS.

## **Procedures for drugs related incidents**

- If a pupil is found in possession of cigarettes, alcohol or an illegal substance they will have this removed from them and the parents will be invited into school to discuss the matter.
- If the substance is notifiable or unknown, it will be removed from the owner, locked in a secure place (the safe) and the police informed.
- If it is found that a child is using drugs, the parents are informed. The child may be in need of medical attention and the school may seek it if necessary. The head and child protection co-ordinator will be informed and a record made as 'cause for concern'.
- All adults working directly with the child or their siblings will be informed of the situation.
- If any child is found in possession of drugs, using drugs or encouraging the use of drugs in others on the school site, the disciplinary action could result in exclusion.
- In the event of a child involved in repeated incidents, the social services would become involved, the governors involved and permanent exclusion a possibility.
- Pupils and staff welfare is paramount at all times - with this in mind a child receiving injuries as a result of another child being under the influence of drugs will result in exclusion of the latter.
- The head has overall authority and must be kept informed at all times.
- Although confidentiality will be maintained wherever possible, the welfare of staff and pupils is essential. Counselling and support for both the child and his/her parents will be provided through referral to appropriate agencies.

Drugs are increasingly becoming a part of our everyday lives. The use of this policy will hopefully go some way to achieving a greater awareness and understanding of drugs and preventing what they are capable of doing to our children.

## **Review**

This policy is due to be reviewed in January 2007 at the latest.

Ruth Bell  
January 2005