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Coton-in-the-Elms C of E Primary School

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

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INTENT

1. Introduction

Coton in the Elms Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines and 'legal highs' as defined by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. We will actively discourage the use of drugs and we acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, and will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward. It is our aim to develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum, especially in subjects such as PSHE and Science. The policy takes full account of the DfE guidance in "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" (2012) as well as 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2019. This policy should also be read alongside our school's PSHE policy, Health and Safety Policy, Behaviour policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Child Protection policy and Science policy

2. Ethos & Aims

The school's drug education programme is part of a whole school approach to the personal, social and health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to take responsibility about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Drug education will link in with our whole school ethos of promoting excellence by making independent and well-informed choices, compassion by holding a secure moral compass, whilst developing empathy towards others, perseverance by upholding a positive mind-set and enjoyment by being happy and healthy; and being given a 'voice'.

The specific purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises.
- Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the school drug education programme and management of drug-related incidents.

The drug policy applies to the whole school, including pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone else visiting the school. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips



IMPLEMENTATION

3. How is it Taught?

Drugs education is delivered throughout the child's education in the manner appropriate to the age and development of children specifically through class lessons in PSHE and Science. However, drugs education might also be applicable to other subject areas as well as in a Circle Time activity or Collective Worship. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community. Drugs education may also be delivered by outside agencies, such as the local PCSO.

4. Planning & Progression

In EYFS, drugs education is taught through circle time within a PSHE lessons. These lessons can include talking about medicines; where medicines should be kept; when to take medicine, what medicines are and who should administer medicines. Harmful substances are also mentioned, specifically where they can be located around the house and how to tell if it is unsafe. Circle times also includes discussion regarding looking after ourselves through exercise, healthy eating and mental health.

In Key Stage 1, drug education is taught through our PSHE programme (PSHE Matters) and children are taught how to:

- Explore the importance of physical, mental and emotional health
- Explore how to make informed choices
- Understand the role of drugs as medicine
- Identify alternatives to taking medicines
- Identify that household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- Identify rules for and ways of keeping safe
- Recognise they have a shared responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe

In Lower Key Stage 2, drug education is taught through our PSHE programme (PSHE Matters) and children are taught how to:

- Recognise how to make informed choices
- Understand that people have different attitudes to risk
- Recognise, predict and assess risks in different situations
- Ask for help and where to get help
- Distinguish between safe and harmful and to know that some substances can be harmful
- Learn rules about staying safe



In Upper Key Stage 2, drug education is taught through our PSHE programme (PSHE Matters) and children are taught how to:

- Make informed choices
- Identify a range of drugs/substances and assess some of the risks/effects
- Identify influences and when an influence becomes a pressure
- Identify basic emergency procedures
- Develop skills of how to ask for help
- Understand the term 'habit' and why habits can be hard to change

5. Support for SEND Pupils & Inclusion

The drugs education programme is taught within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment where children's genuine questions and concerns can be sensitively addressed. We are sensitive to the needs of all students, but particularly vulnerable students whose parent/carers or family members have problems with drugs. Clear ground rules are established within each class: to not ask each other personal questions; to have the right to 'pass' if they do not wish to comment; to agree to join in and make a positive contribution; to listen to each other without interrupting. It is made clear to all children that where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, they should feel able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off and consequently the welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality and may need to seek specialist help if needed. We will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family. To ensure drugs education is delivered in an inclusive manner and accessible for all students, a range of teaching methods and approaches are used. These will include, but is by no means an exhaustive list:

- Advice Alley
- Agree/Disagree Continuum
- Brainstorm
- Carousel
- Change Places If...
- Diamond 9
- Freeze Frames
- Hot seating
- Step Debate
- Emotion Tracking
- Consequence Wheel



6. Cross Curricular Links

We reflect the requirements and guidance in the Science National Curriculum and the statutory framework for PSHE. Our curriculum ensures that we are covering both the statutory requirement in science to teach Year 6 to recognise the impact of drugs on the way their bodies function and the non-statutory science guidance to teach Year 6 how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body and the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle and health. Themed planning is undertaken by all teachers for all year groups and PSHE/drug education links, where relevant, will be planned for and shown on topic web planning.

IMPACT

7. Assessment & Recording

Drug education will be assessed as both part of the Science National Curriculum and our PSHE programme. Pupil's prior knowledge will be ascertained before the teaching of drugs education through use of a planned assessment task and a skills assessment wheel within Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. At the end of a drugs education module, a question will be answered by all children in their PSHE Matters Passport to help the children self-assess and reflect upon their developing knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills, as well as provide the teacher with informative feedback and pupil voice, ensuring that we are addressing what really matters to the children at our school. Reflection time should be planned for within each lesson as well as formative feedback from the teacher that helps pupils to identify how to improve. Drugs education as part of the Y6 Science Curriculum will be assessed using our Science assessment system on ALPS.

8. Monitoring

The drug education subject leader will monitor the teaching of drugs education over the academic year through:

- Learning walks
- PSHE Scrapbook sampling
- Sampling of children's PSHE Passports
- Pupil Conferences
- Moderation within school and across other local schools.

The subject lead will also be responsible for:

- Leading and managing an effective drug education programme throughout the whole school.
- Updating resources and information.
- Auditing and mapping existing provision.
- Keeping up to date with the latest developments.
- Liaising with parent and governors



- Supporting all school staff in accessing professional development opportunities relating to drug education

APPENDIX

9. Managing Drug Related Incidents

Coton in the Elms Primary School 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 and carers, governors and those working and visiting the school.

Drug related incidents in a primary school rarely involve illegal substances however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur. We identify that drug related incidents can include things such as: pupils smoking cigarettes in school or a member of the public informing school that this taking place, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk, pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils, misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosing concerns about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another pupil or finding used syringes in the playground

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

- The Head teacher (DSL) or Deputy DSL will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation unless this puts the child at an increased risk
- Specialist support agencies, including the police if it is an incident involving suspected illegal drugs, will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors
- All drug-related incidents will be recorded using a CPOMS.

Where a medical emergency is raised due to a pupil being unconscious as a result of suspected 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 immediately.

Where a pupil is suspected to be under the influence of a drug, the pupil will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. A first aider and head teacher (or in their absence, a member



of SLT) 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 school.

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy.

If the substance is suspected to be illegal, staff can take temporary possession of it and:

- it will be confiscated, in the presence of a second member of staff as witness
- the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present and stored in a secure location (e.g. a safe or lockable container) with access limited to the head teacher or member of SLT
- the pupil will be taken to the school office and the head teacher or member of SLT called and the pupils questioned
- the police will be notified immediately, who will collect it and store or dispose of it, in line with locally agreed protocols.
- we will record details of the incident using CPOMS, including the police incident reference number
- we will inform the pupil's parents/carers and they will be asked to come into school, unless it is not in the best interest or safety of the child to do so

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school) it will be disposed of or handed to the parent/carer. Staff are allowed to confiscate pupil's property, as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so, including substances, whether legal or not. If staff find other substances which are not believed to be illegal/controlled drugs these can be confiscated where staff believe them to be harmful or detrimental to good behaviour. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as an illegal drug.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is carrying illegal drugs on them or in their personal property, they will ask the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff. In circumstances where a pupil refuses to do this the member of staff will discuss with the head teacher who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. The head teacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then the head teacher will authorise a senior member of staff. The search will take place in school or where staff have lawful control of pupils.

We will keep a record of the search using CPOMS and inform parents if a substance is found, although there is no legal requirement to do this or inform parents before or after a search or seek their consent to search a child.

Teachers can search pupils' bags/trays and in circumstances where a member of staff believes drugs have been stored there, they will seek the pupils' consent and search with a senior member of staff present. If consent is refused the decision to search will be taken by the head teacher.

School site staff make regular checks of the school grounds and know 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 school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.



Our school 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. We are sensitive to the needs of students whose parent/carers or family members have problems with drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, we will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family.

10. Administration and Storage of Medicines

All members of staff at Coton in the Elms are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of our pupils. Prescribed medication will only be administered with a completed medicine administration form from parents/carers, which must be handed in to the office. Non-prescribed medication will **not** be administered by any school staff. All prescribed medication is stored in the refrigerator or in a secure cupboard in the staff room as applicable.

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