

Coton-in-the-Elms Primary School

Drugs Education Policy

Last Reviewed: FGB 03 04 14



1. Introduction

Coton Primary School is committed to investing in our pupil's health and well-being and by doing this we assist the process of raising the pupil's achievements.

Our school uses the term "drug" to include alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.

The school policy provides a clear picture of our approach to drug education and the management of drug-related incidents and support for pupils who have difficulties. It provides a secure framework within which school staff can work. We will ensure a balanced approach and promote healthy lifestyles. This will be delivered within the context of PSHE / Citizenship and the school's Equal Opportunities Policy. The policy takes full account of the DfE guidance "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" (2004).

2. Aims

The overall aims of the drug education programme are to:

- Help pupils make informed choices and decisions.
- Develop rules for, and ways of, keeping them safe.
- Increase knowledge and understanding about legal / illegal drugs and how these relate to personal health.
- Be part of a whole school approach via a spiral and integrated PSHE curriculum.
- Help pupils identify effective and trustworthy sources of help and support.
- To understand risks and the consequences associated.
- Develop self-confidence and assertiveness.

3. The Drugs Education Programme

Drugs education is delivered in each school year in the manner appropriate to the age and development of children through the PSHE / Citizenship programme, Science, Circle Time and occasionally other subject areas. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community. (The learning objectives are outlined along with programmes of work in the Scheme of Work). Drugs education may also be delivered by outside agencies, such as the local PCSO.



4. Teaching and Learning

Drugs education is delivered in an interactive, thought-provoking and interesting manner using a variety of teaching methods and approaches. These include:

- Discussion work.
- Role play.
- Drama / Science / Literacy.
- Video.
- Outside agencies / speakers.

The drug education programme is taught in a caring and safe environment where children's genuine questions and concerns can be sensitively addressed.

5. Managing Drug Related Incidents

Other than the legitimate use of medicines it is against the school rules for children to bring any other drugs onto the school site. A drug related incident at this school is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine or use of tobacco and alcohol by children. Sometimes it might involve drug related incidents with parents.

The school believes it is in the best interests of all concerned to inform parents / carers of any reported drug related incidents. The exception would be where the school believes the child would be at serious risk from the parent / carer.

As in all circumstances where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect the Child Protection Procedures will be applied, or a referral to the Social Services Department for a Child in Need Assessment, if the school feels that a Child Protection investigation is not appropriate.

The school will take full account of the circumstances when considering the role and involvement of the police. However, if illegal drugs are found on the school premises the local police will be informed.

Any drugs paraphernalia found on the premises will be made safe by a member of staff, using protective gloves and appropriate equipment in order to prevent risk to themselves. The Police and Environmental Health Department of the local council will be informed in order that they may remove any such items from the premises and dispose of them safely.

6. 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 written request from parents / carers. Non-prescribed medication will not be administered. All prescribed medication is stored in the refrigerator or in a secure cupboard in the staff room.



7. Parent and Carer Involvement

We value the important role that parents and carers play within our school community and we are committed to ensuring that they:

- Are consulted and informed about the drug education programme and policy via newsletter and in the school prospectus.
- Have the opportunity to attend drug awareness sessions.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

The school will support all teaching and support staff in accessing professional development opportunities related to drug education. Further training will be provided in staff meetings, twilight sessions, INSET and in meetings with parents and governors. We believe that access to good quality information and CPD helps to build staff confidence in delivering drug education.

The teachers will be responsible for delivering the scheme of work and drug education programme, supported by the classroom support staff. When involved in discussions with pupils on the topic, staff need to set clear guidelines as to acceptable levels for question and answer sessions to ensure personal privacy and a safe, non-threatening environment, thereby avoiding any personal disclosures.

The drug education co-ordinator will 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.

There will be a named governor who will liaise with the drug education co-ordinator in order to develop policy and practice and the Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that the drug education programme is implemented throughout the school and for monitoring its effectiveness along with the Governing Body.

9. Outside Agencies

All agencies involved with delivering drug education at Coton will receive a copy of this policy. Input from those outside agencies will be jointly planned with those concerned to ensure an approach that is consistent with the school ethos. We will also ensure that their delivery and messages are in line with our standards of good practice.



10. Monitoring and Review

Drug education will be reviewed as part of school practice by the Headteacher, Governors, staff and pupils to ascertain what has been learned and to establish how future work may become more effective.

It will be reviewed as part of the regular review of the PSHE curriculum, once every three years.

**PC Reference:
Drugs Education Policy**

