

# Drugs Policy

Summer 2013

*Rhodes Avenue Primary School strives to provide the best in primary education. Working in partnership with the local community, pupils staff, parents and governors to continue to pursue excellence in all aspects of school life. Our aim is for all children to enjoy learning and achieve success in a healthy, happy and inclusive environment.*

(Rhodes Avenue Aims Statement)

## **Drugs: A Definition**

A drug is defined as being any substance that alters the way the mind or body works; this may be physically, mentally or emotionally. The school recognises that the world of drugs is complex for children to understand. Drugs are used for many good purposes, for example, medical contexts, but they can also be misused within some social contexts.

Rhodes Avenue Primary School will not permit or tolerate the possession of, consumption of or supply of, any restricted drug or volatile substances on the school premises and will involve the police agencies should an incident occur.

## **Aims**

At Rhodes Avenue Primary School, we are committed to our role in enabling children to make responsible and healthy decisions. We aim to provide drugs education that addresses personal, health and social issues and will cover substances that are not used for any medical purposes, including alcohol and nicotine, as well as legal and illegal 'recreational drugs'.

### **The aims of our policy are to:**

- provide an environment where a healthy lifestyle is promoted throughout the curriculum and ethos of the school;
- enable children to identify risks and have the skills and motivation to keep themselves safe;
- promote positive self-esteem to enable pupils to assert themselves.

## **Objectives**

To:

- provide pupils with appropriate knowledge to enable them to make healthy and informed choices;
- identify current knowledge and attitudes towards drugs;
- use context and methodology appropriate to the needs and maturity of pupils including those with special educational needs;
- involve the whole school community, staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils and relevant outside agencies/speakers;
- provide a planned programme of drug education.

## **Links with Other Curriculum Areas/Policies**

For specific details about possible related issues refer to the:

- SEN/D Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy

- Safeguarding Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Science Policy
- PSHCE/Citizenship/SEAL Policy.

### **Teaching and Learning**

The drugs elements contained in the National Curriculum Science orders are mandatory for all pupils of primary age; they are:

Key Stage 1: 5-7 years old: Unit 2A *Health and Growth*  
 Key Stage 2: 7-11 years old: Unit 5A *Keeping Healthy*.

The non-statutory provision taught through the PSHE curriculum is as follows:

- Key Stage 1: Unit A *Keeping Ourselves and Others Safe*
- Key Stage 2: Unit B *Risk-taking and Dealing with Pressure*  
 Unit C *Building Knowledge and Understanding about Drugs and Alcohol – Practising Skills to Deal with Situations*

The PSHE/SEAL Citizenship leader will:

- provide guidance and support for the teaching of drugs education;
- liaise with Haringey's Healthy Schools Scheme to ensure that the school is supported when implementing local and national initiatives.

Teachers will:

- in their teaching use content and methodology appropriate to the needs and maturity of pupils including those with special educational needs.
- ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not negatively influence the teaching of drugs education.

Should a teacher be absent, non-statutory drugs education will not be taught by a supply teacher.

The ground rules for teaching drug education are:

- no one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- teachers can be supported by having another adult present, where appropriate;
- teachers will set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensure that pupils discuss issues in a mature way;
- meanings of words will be explained in a factual way.

### **Answering Difficult Questions**

It is possible that a child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom, however questions do not have to be answered directly. Teachers will use their skills and discretion in these situations, they will take into account the age and maturity of the pupils when answering questions and consider how they relate to the learning intention for that class. Teachers should not be drawn into providing more information than is appropriate to the age of the child. Neither a teacher, nor a pupil should be expected to answer a personal question. Teachers can refer to the PSHE/SEAL and Citizenship leader, Deputy or Head Teacher for advice and support when responding to questions.

### **(Non)age-appropriate questions:**

Teachers may:

- explain that they will need to find out more information before answering.
- agree to bring an answer to the class at a later date after consulting another member of staff.

### **Safeguarding/Confidentiality**

Teachers and other health professionals will inform children that while most issues can be kept confidential, they will pass on information if they consider a child to be at risk. If a staff member believes that a child is at risk or in danger, she/he is to talk to the Child Protection leader who will confer with the Head teacher before any decision is made. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality needs to be breached.

(Refer to the Safeguarding Policy)

### **Working with Parents and Carers**

Parents are informed before drug education lessons are taught. Additionally an information session for parents is held annually to discuss the resources and lesson content.

### **Training Provision**

All teachers and other staff members who are required to teach Drugs Education will have appropriate training to deal with any drug related issues in a culturally sensitive way.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

The Drugs Education scheme of work has been developed to take into account the diversity of the school population and to meet the needs of the pupils at Rhodes Avenue Primary School.

### **Parents and Carers and the Right to Withdraw Children from Drugs Education Lessons**

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of a school's Drug Education programme, except those parts covered by the statutory national curriculum in Science. Parents who have concerns about Drugs Education are encouraged to talk to the class teacher, PSHE/SEAL and Citizenship leader, the Deputy or Head teacher, to discuss the programme in detail.

Parents wishing to withdraw their children from part, or all of the Drugs education provided outside the Science Curriculum need to do the following:

- Ask to see a copy of the school's Drugs Education Policy and schemes of work;
- Ask the school for an appointment to see a Senior Leader to discuss the withdrawing of their child from the Drugs Education programme.

Following the meeting, if the parent still wishes to withdraw their child, they should put their request in writing.

### **Policy Review/Ratification**

This Policy has been approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed every year in consultation with the Curriculum Committee, the School Leadership Team and School Staff.

### **Evaluation, Assessment and Reporting to Parents**

Evaluation and assessment are an integral part of Personal and Social and Health Education and feedback on pupils' progress is included in the school's annual report to parents as part of the PSHE/SEAL and Citizenship section.

### **Procedures for policy monitoring and dissemination**

All members of staff and governors will receive a copy of this policy. Digital copies are available to parents on the school website and hard copies are available on request at the school office.

Persons Responsible:

Chris Witham (Headteacher)  
Shane Claridge (Deputy Head)  
The Curriculum Committee