

# East Boldon Junior School Drugs Policy



Definition of the word 'drug':

The word drug in this policy incorporates all legal and illegal drugs. This includes alcohol, tobacco, medicines and volatile substances

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:  
A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The terms 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled) khat and alkyl nitrites (also known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

## Legal Highs

'Legal Highs' are psychoactive substances which produce the same, or similar effects, to drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy, but were not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act until 2016. They are illegal under current medicines legislation to sell, supply or advertise for 'human consumption.' To get round this sellers refer to them as research chemicals, plant food, bath crystals or pond cleaner.

In many cases 'legal highs' have been designed to mimic class A drugs, but were structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. However since May 2016 a ban has come into force which makes it illegal to make or distribute psychoactive substances.

## **1 Aims and objectives**

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. Drug education is not seen as completely separate from the curriculum, but is delivered as PSHE and/or Science, The school recognises the importance of meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum Science Order which stated that pupils should be taught:

*At KS2 7-11 year olds - that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.*

**The objectives of our drugs education programme are:**

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

## **2 Organisation**

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum, but especially in PSHE and Science. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. Additional teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the LA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle. Where possible we involve outside agencies. Sometimes children will visit an event promoting drugs education e.g. RAP or a visiting drama group may visit the school.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education. Sometimes the teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take

drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

### **3 The role of the Head Teacher**

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head Teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Head Teacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The Head Teacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

### **4 The role of governors**

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines. Governors will also liaise with the LA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

### **5 The role of parents**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

## **6 Authorised drug use**

Illegal drug use has no place in school; however there may be instances when other drugs may be used legitimately in school e.g., Medicines.

## **7 Management of Drug Related Incidents in School**

The policy of the school is that any incident involving drugs that is seen to pose, or could pose a risk to any pupil should be reported immediately to the Head Teacher, or PSHE coordinator in her absence.

The Head teacher will take the appropriate action – this may involve parents, Children’s Services, the police and any other outside agency deemed appropriate.

The first concern is the welfare of the child and if any medical assistance is required this will be sought immediately.

If a child needs to go to hospital he/she will be accompanied by the Head Teacher or responsible adult, and parents informed.

Any substances or evidence will be given to the Head Teacher for safe keeping (It may be handed over to the police for safe disposal).

Where a child discloses to a teacher any drugs related information the teacher must make clear that no guarantee of confidentiality can be given owing to the seriousness of drug misuse.

If children are suspected of concealing drugs staff can ask children to turn out their pockets, empty bags etc in order to secure the voluntary production of any substances. If the child refuses the police should be called to deal with the situation.

Any illegal drug related behaviour within the proximity of the school and its grounds whether or not involving a pupil will be reported to the police.

The Head Teacher must retain the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, taking account of the factors involved.

The Head Teacher and/or LA representative will deal with all media enquiries.

## **8 Monitoring and review**

The curriculum committee of the governing body on a two year cycle basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

Mrs D Golightly is the governor responsible for drug related issues.

PSHE coordinator is Mrs A McCann

**Reviewed October 2018**

**Next Review October 2020**

Signed: *Hilton Heslop*

Chair of Governors

Signed: *Tim Shenton*

Head Teacher