

## **Roberttown CE (vc) J & I School**

### **Drugs Education Policy**

#### **Ethos/ SMSC Statement**

At Roberttown Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

At our school the welfare of every child is of paramount consideration and so we endeavour to create a caring, happy, secure, supportive and stimulating environment where children can develop socially, emotionally and physically at their own rate. The staff endeavour to provide an atmosphere of care and respect within the curricular and extra-curricular life of the school community.

#### **Why this policy has been developed**

Although it is highly unlikely that illegal drugs will be in our primary school, we believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We therefore have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. The policy endeavours to make a clear statement of our views on drugs and drug education and ensures a consistent approach among staff on drugs education.

It has been developed because children learn about drugs like medicines, alcohol and tobacco from their families and the community in which they live. They learn how their parents, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives treat these drugs by watching what they do and listening to what they say. Young children also learn about drugs from television programmes and magazines that they see in their own homes and in the homes of relatives and friends.

Roberttown's drug education programme aims to give children accurate information about drugs and drug use. Pupils learn safety messages about medicines and develop the skills that they need to stay safe around drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's

- Safeguarding policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Behaviour policy
- Medicines in school policy
- PHSE policy
- Anti-bullying policy

### **The purpose of the policy:**

The purpose of this 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 drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

### **Aims and objectives of the Policy (Personal and Social Skills)**

The aims of and objectives of the policy are:

- Assess, avoid and manage risks to health.
- Communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals.
- Learn how to give and secure help.
- Develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug and alcohol use.
- Develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- To be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from peers, adults and the media.
- To make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice.
- Be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships.
- Develop critical thinking as part of decision-making knowledge and understanding.
- Develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs.
- Gain an understanding of how the body functions, what is safe and appropriate drug use and the role of drugs in society and the laws and rules relating to their use.
- Provide knowledge of people who can help if pupils have worries and an understanding of confidentiality.
- To gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change and to develop their own opinions and values, and understand those of others.
- Promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping themselves safe.

- Enhance self-awareness and self-esteem.
- To value and respect self and others, diversity and difference and promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs.

### **Definition of 'Drugs':**

What is a drug?

*'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'.  
(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)*

The term 'Drugs' includes

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Drugs are found everywhere in today's society. Doctors prescribe them, hotels and tobacconists sell them and illegal drugs can be bought on the streets. Drugs can change how the mind and body works. Legal drugs include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and medicines. Illegal drugs include marijuana, heroin, ecstasy and cocaine. Some other chemicals like petrol and glue can be inhaled by children.

### **What is taught in primary school education?**

Drug education is taught as part of the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) area. It may also be included as part of the Science curriculum.

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, pupils learn what constitutes a healthy lifestyle including the benefits of physical activity, rest, healthy eating and dental health and that household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.

In Years 3, 4 and 5 pupils learn, which, why and how, commonly available substances and drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) could damage their immediate and future health and safety, that some are legal, some are restricted and some are illegal to own, use and supply to others. They are also taught to be able to recognise when and how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do something dangerous, unhealthy, that makes them uncomfortable, anxious or that they believe to be wrong.

In Year 6, pupils learn about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health. This is covered via the SPICED programme (Schools Partnership in Children's *Education on Drugs*)

The programme includes 10 lessons which are led by the class teacher, with support from the police and a parents evening for the parents to gather information.

The Spiced aim is to enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own. Children will also learn about the consequences of using drugs or being caught with drugs in a way that they can understand. For example, convictions for drugs will rule out any future careers such as the forces, police, or teaching. A drugs conviction will also impact

on world travel, particularly America and Disneyland. This links directly to the work done in Year 6 with the Magistrates in the Community.

Pupils also learn how to resist peer pressure and basically how to “Just say No”. The children discuss assertiveness and how to put it into practise in different situations.

The purpose of Drugs Education at Roberttown is for pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Body and Head Teacher have overall responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of the Drugs Policy at Roberttown School.

The PSHE subject Leader will ensure an appropriate programme of study is being delivered for all pupils within the school. Duties will include:

- a) Liaising with the Head Teacher on the implementation of the policy.
- b) Contacting and liaising with outside agencies.
- c) Offering support and training where necessary for, staff and parents on drug education matters.
- d) Helping to promote an awareness of drug education within the school.

All other teaching and non-teaching staff will be responsible for putting into practice the policy and ensuring that appropriate lessons are taught to ensure that children are developing positive attitudes towards a healthy way of life.

### **Procedures for Managing Drug-Related Incidents**

#### **Management of drugs at school:**

The first concern in managing drugs or drugs incident is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils.

As Roberttown is a primary school it is highly unlikely that we will have to deal with a drug-related incident, however if one should occur the Head Teacher, or member of staff in charge, must be informed at once and relevant agencies will be informed.

It is also highly unlikely that the police will need to become involved, however if in the unlikely event that the police are contacted this will be handled in line with the Kirklees Council Policy on the *Management of Drug Related Incidents*.

Drugs (legal or illegal) related incidents can generally be placed into one of three categories

- Rumours of use or dealing on or off the premises
- Actual use or dealing on or off the premises, including a first aid response
- Disclosures of own or others use from a student or parent and requests for help and support

**Medicines-** Attention should be paid to the Medicines in School Policy.

**Tobacco-** Any tobacco found in a pupil's possession will be confiscated and returned to parents. Smoking is not allowed on this premise.

**Alcohol-** Any alcohol found in pupil's possession should be confiscated and returned to parents. Schools may wish to emphasise that drinks such as shandy contain alcohol and should not be bought to school or included in packed lunches. We also discourage the consumption of 'energy drinks' as these can contain levels of caffeine inappropriate for children.

**Solvents-** Roberttown ensures that potentially harmful substances are stored safely and pupils are supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of correction fluid, sharpie pens and aerosol sprays by children is prohibited. Caretaker's materials are well labelled and locked in a secure cupboard.

**Illegal Substances-** The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and in dealing with drug related incidents the schools primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole.

### **Confidentiality**

Roberttown school will try to ensuring that sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupil's and families' rights and needs.

### **Involvement of parents/carers:**

We would fully expect to involve parents at the earliest opportunity with regard to the unauthorised use of drugs and this will be made clear to pupils. However, there may be an exceptional circumstance where a request for confidentiality may be considered unless this is not possible in relation to

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency

An agreement to keep information confidential will always include the Head Teacher as well as the member of staff concerned

### **The role of the Governors:**

Governors are fully involved in the consultation development of this policy,

This policy is reviewed as part of our rolling programme of review, barriers are identified, and plans put in place to remove them.

### **Notes**

#### **Key documents which have informed this policy outline:**

- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools September 2012  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/drugsguidance](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/drugsguidance)
- School Drug Policy Review Process
- [www.drugeducationforum.co.uk](http://www.drugeducationforum.co.uk)

### Procedure re. child suspected of taking drugs

