



## Hovingham & St Hilda's CE (VC) Primary Schools Federation



Headteacher Mr J. Pynn MA NPQH

### Substance Misuse Policy

#### RATIONALE

Schools have a responsibility to provide a curriculum which "promotes the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life" (Sec 1(2) Education Reform Act 1988).

Schools seek to develop the full potential of every child and the misuse of drugs can impair this development. Schools thus have a pastoral role in supporting and enabling pupils to achieve their potential and so the need for drug education is obvious, although education about keeping safe whilst living in a world of drugs is probably a more accurate reflection of how best to enable young people to choose to make informed, healthy and responsible choices about their lifestyle.

#### DEFINITIONS

A **drug** is a substance which, when taken into the body, may alter a person's mood, feelings, perceptions, physiology or behaviour. It may be helpful or harmful, addictive or not.

Given this definition drugs include medicines, over the counter preparations, tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, solvents, "poppers", **legal highs** and substances which are unlawful eg cannabis, amphetamines, LSD and heroin. This broad definition encompasses drugs which may be regarded as generally helpful, (eg medicines), ones which are 'socially acceptable', (eg alcohol) and those which are illegal. **ALL DRUGS, HOWEVER, HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE HARMFUL.**

**Drug misuse** is the inappropriate use of a substance which is unlawful or which results in the user of the drug being impaired in relation to their need to function properly in a specific place and time. Drug misuse therefore includes:

- unlawful possession or use of a substance.
- unlawfully supplying or intending to supply a drug.
- inappropriate use of a drug because of place, time, task or responsibility.
- using medicines not in accordance with instructions.
- using drugs in ways which are harmful to health.

#### POLICY APPLICATION

This policy applies to persons on school premises and involved with events and activities which are part of the extended curriculum on or off the school site.

## POSITION STATEMENT

- The school does not condone the misuse of drugs by any member of the school community, nor the illegal supply of drugs.
- The school is committed to the health, safety and welfare of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of the welfare of its members and will therefore seek to create a climate of understanding whereby persons in need of support may feel comfortable in coming forward.
- The school recognises that children and young people take risks from time to time and that, for some, misusing drugs is one of those risks. Where a child or young person is found to have been misusing drugs the school will start from a position of wishing to offer support to enable the individual to alter their behaviour. We will seek to minimise disruption to their education. However, the needs of individuals will always be balanced against the needs of the majority.
- We believe that responsibility for children's education is jointly shared between the school and parents and therefore we shall communicate with parents on drug issues as and when need arises.

## DRUG EDUCATION

The school recognises that it has a duty to inform and educate children about the consequences of drug use and misuse. Although there are increasing pressures and opportunities for children and young people to misuse drugs, significant numbers choose not to do so. Through the whole school curriculum, Science and PSHCE in particular, and through informal activities associated with the extended school day we will pursue the following aims regarding drug use and misuse:

- to promote individual's self-esteem and to value themselves as unique, creative, caring people irrespective of academic abilities.
- to enable children to make responsible, healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge and understanding, exploring attitudes and values and by developing and practising personal skills including those of communication and assertiveness.
- to provide information about substances using methods which promote understanding.
- to increase awareness and understanding about the implications and possible legal, social, economic and health consequences of use and misuse of drugs.
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse.
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues, for example, crime and disease.
- to seek to minimise risks that current and potential misusers of drugs face.
- to enable children to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims will be delivered mainly by teachers. Where other agencies or individuals are involved they will be informed about this policy, work in accordance with it and with current LA Guidelines.

## THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies.

The Headteacher will have responsibility for dealing with outside agencies. In the event of any

contact with the media the Headteacher will respond after seeking advice and guidance from appropriate sources, for example, the LEA Press Office, Legal Department or Advisers.

## THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNORS

The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and with dealing with drug related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the curriculum or the school community as a whole.

## GOOD PRACTICE

The influence which adults, including teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and outside contractors, exert on children by the role models they present cannot be underestimated. Presenting positive role models and ensuring that proper responsibilities can be discharged can be achieved by:

adults respect the no smoking policy in or around school premises, including the school gate.

adults respect the no smoking policy in face to face situations with children when helping with school activities.

adults being alcohol free whilst being responsible for children where the school has responsibility for their health and welfare. This includes residential visits.

adults being unimpaired in carrying out their duties and responsibilities by reason of medication or other drug use.

## DEALING WITH DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR UNDER SCHOOL JURISDICTION

The school will consider each drug-related incident on its merits. A variety of responses will be necessary to deal with specific incidents and the school will consider carefully the implications for both the individuals concerned and the wider school community of any action which may be taken. Responses could range from offering advice and support, enabling additional support to be accessed, to punitive measures or a combination. At all times the well-being of the individuals concerned will be paramount regardless of the legal status of any substance alleged to be involved. We shall seek to balance the interests of the children involved with those of the remaining school population and of the wider community and in doing so will seek to minimise disruptions to anyone's education. Whilst temporary and permanent exclusions are possible the latter is regarded as a last resort given that it may only serve to transfer rather than resolve any problems.

In instances involving inappropriate use of any lawful drug or possession or supply of controlled drugs on the premises the matter should be reported to Head as soon as possible. If there is reasonable belief that a drug related incident has occurred, although there is no legal obligation to do so, the Headteacher will decide how and when parents are to be contacted with a view to the school and parents working together to support the individual concerned.

Following consultation with parents of children alleged to be involved in a drug-related incident the police may be informed if an illegal substance is involved. Whilst there is no legal obligation on a school to inform the police, the school does reserve the right to do so and **will** do so where there is any reasonable cause to believe that a supply of a controlled drug may have occurred. In serious cases it may be necessary for the school to contact the police prior to contacting the parents although this is likely to be the exception rather than the rule.

There is a legal obligation on the school (as there is on parents at home), to ensure that its premises are not knowingly used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

A member of school staff cannot guarantee total confidentiality and this should be made clear to any child who seeks this or if a conversation is considered likely to place either a child or a member of staff in a position of compromise. If confidentiality is required by an individual then they can be advised of services in the community which will offer this.

## SUBSTANCES FOUND ON PREMISES

Any drug-related substance found on school premises should be notified to the Headteacher, who if suspecting it of being a controlled drug, will notify the police who will arrange for its disposal. Witnesses to each stage should be obtained.

## DRUG INFORMATION/GENERAL AWARENESS

The school recognises that substance use and misuse is an issue for the whole community and it is ever changing. As a public service we will, from time to time, enable parents and the wider community to increase their awareness and understanding of this by a variety of means including the provision of written information or meetings.

Any parents who have concerns about drugs are invited to contact the school to speak to the Headteacher or the member of staff designated to deal with substance use or misuse issues. This meeting will be confidential.

Signed...James Pynn

Approved – Summer Term 2014

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