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**Drug Education Policy**

In caring about excellence and each other, and in promoting enjoyment and happiness through fulfilment, the members of Longton Primary School community believe in

**CARE through respect, support and togetherness**

**GROW through choice, opportunity and imagination**

**SHINE through challenge, achievement and celebration**

**Drug Education Policy**

**Longton Primary School**

**RATIONALE**

At Longton Primary School we believe that drug education helps to give our pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead healthy, responsible and independent lives and to develop the confidence to make informed choices about drug use. We recognise that it is essential to provide a programme sensitive to the ages and experiences of our children and that children need to know that the word ‘drugs’ means,

*‘A substance people take to change the way they feel think or behave’*

***United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime***

and refers to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs. It is vital that this should happen in consultation and partnership with parents and health professionals. This policy relates to all areas of school life including residential trips and links to other policies including the behaviour, health and safety, science, PSHE. It provides clarity for teachers and all those within the boundaries of the school community.

**AIMS**

We aim that through the drug education curriculum our pupils will:

* Develop a positive approach and self-motivation towards personal safety and risk taking.
* Develop a safe and healthy lifestyle through being able to identify hazards to health and safety.
* Be able to make informed choices about drug use.
* Be able to recognise unwanted influence and pressure from friends and be able to exercise some basic techniques for resisting.

We intend to achieve these aims through

* A school ethos that values the worth and contribution of all individuals to the school community and promotes self respect and respect for others
* Sessions within the science curriculum that address pupils being taught about “ the role of drugs as medicines,” in KS1, and at KS2 pupils being taught about “the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health.
* Jigsaw lessons which relate specifically to drug education. However, class teachers are aware of links within other topics for instance keeping safe, personal hygiene and rules and laws. During this time, we try to care for the wider pastoral needs of the pupils by allowing the children to share and discuss their own anxieties and worries and by making the children aware of external support structures including NCPCC.

**FOUNDATION STAGE**

We teach drug education in reception classes as part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the drug education aspects of the children’s work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Our teaching in drug education matches the aim of developing a child’s personal, emotional and social development and knowledge and understanding of the world as set out in the ELGs and includes how we keep ourselves healthy and how we keep ourselves safe.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The staff will ensure that all children will have an equal opportunity to develop their potential within drug education, regardless of gender, ability, cultural or religious background in line with the school’s policy on equal opportunities.

**INCLUSION**

We teach drug education to all children, regardless of their ability. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of children with learning difficulties. When teaching drug education we take into account the targets set for the children in their Individual Education Plans.

**APPROACHES TO TEACHING AND LEARNING**

To facilitate pupils learning in drug education

* The purpose of each lesson is made clear
* Appropriate learning experiences are planned and meet the needs of all the children in the class
* Learning experiences draw on pupils own experiences or existing knowledge and provide a range of opportunities for pupils to learn, practice and demonstrate skills, attitudes and knowledge and understanding
* Time is given for pupils to reflect, consolidate and apply their learning
* Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to reflect on their own progress
* Attention is given to developing a safe and secure classroom climate where sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to children’s rights and needs. If a child’s safety is thought to be under threat the child protection co-ordinator will be informed immediately.

Assessing, recording and reporting

* Teachers make informal judgements on the children as they observe them.
* Assessment should offer the children the opportunity to reflect on their own progress.
* The PSHE Subject Leader will monitor coverage and balance of drug education activities and evaluate the impact of school provision in consultation with the teachers and their subject evaluations.
* The co-ordinator supports colleagues by giving them information about current developments in the subject and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in school.

**RESOURCES**

Resources for drug education may be found with science resources or with PSHE resources. The Subject Leaders are responsible for the organisation and maintenance of resources.

**MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS USED FOR TREATMENT.**

The school recommends that parents/guardians provide written details (a form or Individual Healthcare Plan) of any medical conditions, including medication, that the children may have. The Individual Health Care Plan will be kept in the school office and in the SEN secure room, all staff notified. School staff should not normally administer drugs that have been prescribed on a temporary basis. Medication is kept normally in a locked cabinet in the school hall, unless stated differently in the Individual Health Care Plan. Please see the Medication policy for further details.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Our school addresses the welfare and pastoral needs of pupils in our care by:

* Active supervision of pupils,
* Procedures for the storage of potentially hazardous materials (see Health and Safety Policy).
* Daily checking of the school and grounds for discarded syringes etc.
* Provision of first aiders and equipment.

**UNAUTHORISED DRUG USE**

Illegal and any other drugs that have not been permitted onto the school premises through medical needs are not acceptable within the boundaries identified within this policy. Exceptions to this rule are:

* Alcohol which is brought into school for an Association function. This will be stored securely in a place not accessible to the children and a licence from the Local Council will be applied for.

**A DRUG INCIDENT MAY BE DEFINED AS:**

* Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the school premises,
* A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age,
* A pupil is found in possession or drugs or associated paraphernalia
* A pupil is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises
* A pupil, parent/carer is thought to be under the influence of drugs
* A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

**IF A DRUG INCIDENT IS SUSPECTED:**

* Members of staff may not carry out a personal search, every effort should be made for the person to hand over any drugs.
* Staff may search school property.
* Staff may not search personal property, e.g. a pencil case or tray, without consent. *All searches should take place with a second adult witness.*

**IN THE EVENT OF A DRUG INCIDENT:**

* Substance-related incidents will be taken seriously,
* Each incident will be considered individually based on the particular set of circumstances.
* We will balance sanctions, support and education to ensure the well being of the school community.
* A range of responses/sanctions may be used to respond to the identified needs of those involve including the support of outside agencies.
* Parents/Carers will be informed by the Head Teacher.
* The LEA may be contacted for guidance and support.
* Local partner agencies may be contacted for supporting pupils and agreeing protocols for referral.

**POLICE INVOLVEMENT**

The local liaison officer will be contacted for advice if an illegal substance is found on the school premises.

**SUPPORT FOR STAFF AND PARENTS**

Children of drug using parents are identified as an at risk group. However, drug use by parent does not itself indicate child neglect or abuse. We would contact an appropriate agency for advice if we became aware of family drug use. Issues of confidentiality would be carefully considered. Staff misuse of illegal drugs, prescription medicines or alcohol can be a disciplinary matter. The governing body or Head Teacher would take action in this case.

**GOVERNING BODY**

The governing body has been involved in the development of the policy and has adopted it. The governors will be well informed on drugs issues as they affect the school and may be involved in any case conferences called, or appeals against exclusion.

**PARENTS**

We consider the support of the parents essential and endeavour to ensure that parents are informed of any developments in our programme.

**REVIEW**

This policy has been constructed through drawing on guidance from DfES “Drugs: Guidance for schools” and advice from an LEA advisor.

This policy will be reviewed and, where appropriate, amended annually.