

Queensmead Primary Academy

Drugs Education Policy

Rationale

Schools have a key role to play in ensuring that young people understand the risks involved in drug use and abuse and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to avoid them. We have a major contribution to make in discouraging drug misuse, encouraging positive attitudes and self-esteem, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils, we have a duty to inform and educate them about drug abuse. Schools share this responsibility with parents/carers and the community and need to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and encourage them to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge, practising skills and challenging attitudes.

At Queensmead Primary Academy, drug education focuses on influencing students' values, attitudes, knowledge and skills so they make healthier decisions about alcohol and other drugs

We also believe that misuse of drugs by any member of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regards to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned.

Definition

The definition of a drug used in DfE guidance is "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave".

This includes all illegal drugs (controlled by the Misuse of Drugs act 1971, Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and amendments), all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, psychoactive substances, illegal drugs and all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Purpose of policy

- To clarify legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce safeguarding procedures.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all members of its community as well as external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on implementing the drug education programme.
- Enable Staff to deal with any incidents which occur with confidence, consistency and in the best interests of all involved.
- Reinforce the role of the school in responding and contributing to national and local strategies

This Policy must be read alongside the following policies available in school.

- Health and Safety policy
- Child protection policy
- Medicines policy
- Supporting pupils with medical needs policy
- RSE policy
- Asthma Policy

Aims

The aim of our Drug Education teaching is to enable all our pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.

Organisation

We will follow the National guidelines set out by the DCFS/Dfe and ACPO and will be sensitive to the age and experience of our pupils. The curriculum will be delivered through PSHE teaching and the requirements of the programme of study in Science as well as RSE policy. We use POL-ED to support our teaching and learning around drug education. Drug education will be evident on Year Group curriculum maps. It will be taught by class teachers and if appropriate visiting speakers eg. local Police representatives.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

The designated member of staff for dealing with drug related incidents is the Principal who will follow guidance in responding to each individual case. The Principal will liaise with outside agencies where necessary.

Procedures

- The school is a No Smoking site in line with Government requirements.
- Medicines and their use will be dealt with according to the school's Administration of Medicine policy and Supporting Pupils with medical needs guidance.
- No alcohol must be consumed on the site during the course of a normal school day.
- The school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosols is discouraged because of the potential risk to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.
- No illegal substances must be brought on to the school site or on school trips and visits by Pupils, Parents/Carers/Staff or Visitors.

All incidents must be reported to the Principal or their representative.

Each case will be assessed and dealt with according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil involvement and in line with Child Protection procedures and legal obligations. The health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils is to be considered as the first concern.