



DRUG EDUCATION AND DRUG PREVENTION POLICY

Policy Development

This document has been prepared by the Personal Development (PSH&CE) co-ordinator for consultation with the full staff and governors. It will be reviewed regularly.

Values

Set in the broader context of Personal Health and Social Education our drug education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which pupils can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. The ethos of the school gives clear direction to work on attitudes, values and relationships. All non-medical drugs on school premises are unacceptable.

This policy has clear links with, and should be considered alongside, other school policies (Personal Development, Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Medication).

Rationale and Aims

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; and
- prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Drugs are a part of everyday life. Our drug education considers an appropriate range of drugs, remembering that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.

In Hertfordshire, the Policy and Strategy for Drug Prevention through Education encourages schools to work with other agencies in the locality to prevent misuse by providing pupils with:

- **Knowledge** relating to drugs, their use and misuse; knowledge about the rules of various settings; knowledge about health, social and legal issues, including possible risks, effects and consequences; knowledge about helping agencies.
- **Skills development** to help them to communicate effectively and to make informed decisions, considering and acknowledging their own and other people's attitudes.

- **Care and support** from within the school and access to helping agencies in the wider community.

For students at Greenside School such aims are still appropriate, though the students' levels of intellectual understanding needs to be taken into account. For some students, for example those with profound and multiple learning difficulties, drug education may not be relevant.

For the students drug education, as part of the wider PHSE curriculum, should:

- enable them to think for themselves and to take increasing responsibility for themselves and their behaviour;
- promote positive attitudes towards personal health;
- give knowledge about drugs and risks/benefits associated with them;
- develop skills to avoid pressure, exploitation and abuse.

With knowledge, skills and an understanding of attitudes and values young people's self esteem should increase and they should be more able to make effective decisions and act on them.

Content

Drug education is not to be seen in isolation. It is part of a comprehensive Personal, Health and Social Education programme with an emphasis on self value. Pupils' developing awareness of drugs and their use and misuse has implications for the issues and situations and the depth to which they are explored. Students may be aware of the use of, or have used themselves, alcohol and tobacco; they may have encountered the use of drugs as medicine; and may be aware of, or even tried, illegal drugs.

Drug education within the curriculum

Science

- at Key Stage 1, 'about the role of drugs as medicines';
- at Key Stage 2, 'that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects';
- at Key Stage 3, 'that the abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affects health', 'that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines' and 'how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange';
- at Key Stage 4, about 'the effects solvents, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on body functions'.

RE

Religious education can provide opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of moral issues, develop the skills to express their own views clearly and consider the individual, social and moral consequences of actions.

Design and Technology

This curriculum area can provide opportunities for pupils to develop awareness of safety, hazards and risks and take responsibility for the consequences of their actions for themselves and others.

PE

Physical education can provide opportunities for pupils to develop positive attitudes towards health and develop safety awareness.

Personal Development (including PSHE)

Personal development is a core aspects of the Greenside school curriculum and can provide a suitable context to teach and reinforce concepts relating to drug education.

Organisation

Drug education is generally carried out as part of the PHSE programme in the Senior department. Students are usually grouped according to need and drug education is not considered relevant for all students.

There is a Personal Development co-ordinator who is responsible for co-ordinating drug education.

The school welcomes the involvement of the Police Schools Liaison Officer in its drug education programme. The Liaison Officer works with teachers in delivering the drug education programme.

A variety of approaches is used, appropriate to the age and abilities of the students and according to the specific topic. This might include discussion, worksheets, use of artefacts, dilemmas and role play.

Specific Issues

Drug related incidents

Each situation will be considered individually. The precise nature of the incident and involvement of pupils will be determined before deciding on a response. A variety of responses may be necessary. These responses may link to other policies such as Behaviour or Health and Safety. The implications of any action taken will be considered very carefully. The needs of the pupil will be considered first, focusing on the individual rather than on the substance. Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity in order to work together to support the young person.

Confidential issues

The promise of confidentiality is not realistic, especially when there is a risk to the safety of a pupil or other people. The pupil should be told when information is to be passed on.

Working with Parents

The school's general policy on partnership with parents is that there should be a close, open and flexible relationship. We strive for effective communication and co-operation. Parents are informed about any drug education programme in which their son or daughter is participating.

Resources

Staff

There is a need for training for staff involved in the delivery of the drug education programme. Although teachers do not need to be specialists they do need a knowledge of key facts and a clear understanding of their implications. The governing body have complete confidence in the staff and the professionalism they bring to the sensitive task of drug education.

Resource materials

A variety of resource material is used, including graphic material and artefacts. These are carefully selected to meet the needs of pupils. The police schools liaison officer has some resources. Resource material is available at Wheathampstead Education Centre. Resources may also be borrowed from the Health Education Resources Centre (Stevenage, 01438 714762). A digest of drug education resources produced by the DFEE is also available and held by the PSE co-ordinator.

Evaluation and Review

Individual progress is reviewed through observation of individuals and their response to activities. The information thus obtained is used to review and adjust the individual's programme.