

# **Anchorsholme Academy**



## **Drug Education Policy**

# **Anchorshome Academy Drugs Education Policy**

## **1 Aims and objectives**

**1.1** We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

**1.2** The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To enable children to make decisions resulting in positive healthy choices;
- To raise childrens' self-esteem so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- To give children facts and information about drugs, recognising that some drugs can be useful and save lives;
- To know how to keep and use medicines safely;
- To understand the law relating to drugs and develop an awareness of drugs in society;
- To help children become aware of their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs.

## **2 Definition of drugs**

**2.1** Throughout this policy the term 'drug' will refer to any substance that when taken into the body causes an alteration in normal behaviour, regardless of legality. This will include, for example:

- Medicines
- Legal and illegal drugs
- Tobacco
- Alcohol.

It must be remembered that all of these drugs are capable of being misused and can cause harm.

### **3 Organisation**

- 3.1** We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.
- 3.2** Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. As such it may be taught as a discreet subject or through other subjects ( refer to appendix 1: Drugs Coverage throughout KS1&2 ). In Year 6 the children undertake a research topic where they are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the LEA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LEA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.
- 3.3** The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

### **4 The role of the headteacher**

- 4.1** It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 4.2** The headteacher and Drugs Co-ordinator will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- 4.3** The headteacher and Drugs Co-ordinator will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.
- 4.4** The Drugs Co-ordinator will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

## **5 The role of governors**

- 5.1** The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy.

## **6 The role of parents**

- 6.1** The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

## **7 Dealing with Incidents**

- 7.1** All incidents will be treated and investigated in a serious but sensitive manner. Each incident will be considered individually based on the circumstances and dealt with confidentially following agreed procedures:  
inform Drug Co-ordinator and/or Headteacher  
investigate and obtain relevant information and/or substances  
ensure safety and well-being of child and other pupils  
when appropriate Headteacher to inform parents and other relevant agencies  
record all incidents.
- 7.2** For further information and guidance refer to Appendix 2: SCODA 'Drug Situations'

## **8 Outside Agencies**

- 8.1** Outside agencies may be invited into school to help deliver the drug education programme. These agencies may include the Police, School Nurse, Life Education Centres.
- 8.2** When outside agencies come into school it remains the school's responsibility for what is taught. Therefore prior consultation between the class teacher and outside agency is necessary.
- 8.3** It is important that the outside agencies work with and alongside the teachers. The teaching situation should always be led by a teacher the pupils know well.
- 8.4** Should disclosure occur relating to drugs and/or any other issue then it is important that the agency involved follows the correct school procedure as is stated in the Child Protection Policy.

## **9 Monitoring and review**

- 9.1** The co-ordinator will monitor the delivery and content of the drug education programme taught in the school.
- 9.2** The co-ordinator will keep staff up to date with changes in the law relating to drugs and any LEA requirements through INSET.
- 9.3** This policy will be reviewed annually.