

# MITCHELDEAN ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY ON DRUGS EDUCATION

September 2014

## DRUGS Education Policy



### **Vision Statement**

To ensure that every child receives the highest quality education that is engaging, enriching and inclusive, in an environment that works hard to develop, support and care for all its members, with people that foster mutual respect and encouragement in accordance with Christian values.

### **Section A EDUCATION DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

This policy has been developed by the Headteacher and the PSHE subject leader through consultation with Governors, parents, and appropriate outside agencies. It has been written in accordance with the DfES guidance received in September 2012, DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools

### **Drugs and the National Curriculum**

In England, certain aspects of drug education are a statutory requirement as part of the National Curriculum Science Order:

- at Key Stage 2 (7-11 year olds) recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.

### **Policy Statement**

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social education of every pupil.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is as important to recognise that larger numbers of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We will continue to provide support for all children and encourage them towards a healthy lifestyle.

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**Aims**

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect to drugs education policy:

- to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- to provide accurate information about substances and to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse.
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- to create an environment where pupils feel able to explore and discuss drug-related issues.

**Organisation of drug education in the school**

Drugs education is organised and taught as part of a broader programme of personal and social and health education within the school and through the science curriculum.

There is a detailed drug scheme of work outlining learning objectives throughout the school. Each year the Gloucestershire Life Education Bus works with Years 1-4 and children in Years 5 and 6 have a visit from Daylight Theatre, both of these support our drug education scheme. It is also taught as part of ongoing science lessons or as part of the PSHE/Citizenship learning objectives. External contributors (such as the Life Education Bus, police or school nurse), are not used as substitute teachers, and are used to support our drug education programme.

**Section B THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS**

**Rationale**

The school recognises that a drugs related incident may be identified through the discovery of a classified or unprescribed substance and/or someone found in possession, or having to respond to incidences of suspicion and/or rumour. An incident may also arise from the discovery of drugs related paraphernalia e.g. syringes.

The school acknowledges that each drug-related incident should be treated individually and recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary to deal with incidents. Any action taken will seek to balance the interests of the individuals involved, the other school members and the wider school community. Discovery of illegal substances or related paraphernalia will be reported to the police.

**Parents**

The school acknowledges the importance of working in partnership and sharing responsibility of education of pupils with parents. This is achieved by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation with parents are essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

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**Co-ordination**

The Headteacher will be informed of any incident at the time and will take responsibility for any action taken.

**Confidentiality**

The possession and use of illegal drugs will be the immediate concern of school staff. It is important that any action taken is in the best interests of the pupils concerned, the whole school and wider community.

The school may maintain confidentiality and is not obliged in law to take any action in the following circumstances:

- Being told that a young person has used an illegal drug;
- Observing possession or use of illegal drugs outside the school day or off the school premises.

There will, of course, be occasions where, although not legally obliged to do so, the school will feel it appropriate to inform parents and/or police.

The school has a statutory requirement to breach confidentiality:

- Where a third party or child is at risk from serious harm;
- When life is in immediate risk;
- Where a member of staff is required to give evidence in a court of law.

**Health and Safety**

Where the health and safety of pupils are at immediate risk through intoxication or collapse, the school will act in accordance with its medical emergency policy and practice.

Any substances found in the vicinity of the incident and any information offered by friends or peers regarding the incident will be given to medical personnel on their arrival.

The school is aware of the possible risk from drug paraphernalia being discarded on its premises and will take appropriate action to ensure the overall safety of the site. Any equipment found will be disposed of in line with school health and safety procedures.

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### **Possession and disposal**

In the event that a substance is found or confiscated on the premises, the Headteacher will be informed and prompt action will be taken to ensure its disposal. This will be achieved by

- Contacting the police to arrange for collection. If it is necessary to take the substance to the Police station, the name of the officer who will receive the substance will be obtained prior to departure. Two members of staff will travel together. A record will be kept of the action taken.

Under no circumstances will a substance be kept overnight on the premises.

### **Police involvement**

The school reserves the right, where appropriate, to contact the police with regard to any incident. There is no legal obligation on the school to inform the police of incidents, although it is recognised that they may be able to provide relevant support and advice. Parents will always be contacted where there is police involvement.

### **Dealing with rumour and hearsay**

The school will deal responsibly with any information gained through rumour or hearsay. The decision whether to attempt to substantiate the information will depend on the circumstances involved, recognising that opening up discussion on rumours can be harmful. A record will be kept of any action taken.

### **Dealing with the media**

In line with the LEA's guidelines regarding media interest, no information will be given without advice and guidance. The governing body and, where appropriate, parents will be kept informed.

### **Discipline and sanctions**

The boundaries of acceptable behaviour in the school are outlined in the behaviour policy. Discipline and sanctions applied in the case of a drug-related incident will take into account many factors including the nature of the incident, the age of the pupil(s) involved and the circumstances surrounding the incident. In applying sanctions, the school recognises the need to balance the interests of the pupil(s) involved and the well-being of the whole school. The Headteacher and governing body will seek to help any pupil to work through her/his difficulties, and in keeping with this, permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort since this may only compound or transfer the problem.

### **Pastoral care and support for pupils at risk**

The school seeks to provide all pupils with support and guidance through the pastoral system. Where pupils are identified as being at risk, every effort will be made to ensure that they receive the appropriate balance of support and guidance to enable them and their family to overcome their difficulties.

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**Recording and reporting**

A record of all drug-related incidents will be kept for the protection of staff and pupils involved. Such records will be maintained centrally and will detail the nature of the incident and the action taken.

See also ~

Medication in schools Policy.

Health and safety Policy.

Safeguarding Policy.

Confidentiality Policy

Policy Updated September 2014

Review date September 2015

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**Drug Education - Scheme of work**

	<b>Cambridge units</b> - See Cambridge file.
EYFS	Keeping Safe 1 Keeping Safe 2
YEAR 1	
YEAR 2	World of drugs 1 - 2D drugs and their uses  World of drugs 2 - 2E/2F Keeping healthy /Identifying and reducing the risk
YEAR 3	
YEAR 4	World of drugs 1 - 4D Drugs and their uses  World of drugs 2 - 4E/4F Keeping healthy /Identifying and reducing the risk
YEAR 5	
YEAR 6	World of drugs 1 - 6D Drugs and their uses  World of drugs 2- 6E/6F Keeping healthy /Identifying and reducing the risk