

Swanmead Community School



Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

DATE OF POLICY: **7th May 2015**
REVIEW DATE: **May 2018**

PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Headteacher

Introduction

This policy takes into account the following National and Local Guidance: 'Drug prevention and schools' (DFEE Circular 4/95 reviewed 9/03), 'Drug Education: Curriculum Guidance for Schools' (DFEE 1995), 'Protecting Young People: Good Practice in Drug Education in School' (DFEE 1998), 'The Right Choice' (SCODA 1998), 'The Right Responses' (SCODA 1999), 'The Right Approach' (SCODA 1999). This policy is based on 'Guidance on Drug Policy Development' (Somerset Education 2000)

Rationale

Within Swanmead, we recognise that although drugs may not always be harmful, all carry the potential for harm. Safety and effective management therefore underpin both the school's drugs education and its response to any incident. Medicines (over the counter and prescription) will be treated with the same priority, care and respect as non-medicinal drugs.

Aims

The drugs, alcohol and tobacco policy aims to:

- Safeguard the health and well being of all pupils at all times
- Consider all drugs, legal, medicinal and illegal and to respond constructively to the issues raised by their availability and use in society
- Outline the aims, content and organisation of the school drugs, alcohol and tobacco education programme
- Provide clear guidance to staff about procedures for managing drug related incidents.

Content and organisation of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education

Aims

We believe drugs, alcohol and tobacco education should not be delivered in isolation, but be firmly rooted in our personal, social and health education and citizenship programme, supplemented by Science and other subjects of our taught curriculum.

The broad aims of our drugs, alcohol and tobacco programme are to:

- Increase the knowledge and understanding of drugs, their uses and dangers, the law and relevant local and national agencies
- Explore a range of views, clarify attitudes and challenge stereotypes
- Develop a range of skills to enable young people to make their own informed decisions about drugs.

Content

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco education is taught within the context of the requirements of the National Science curriculum 2000 provision and also within the context of PSHE provision. Through PSHE provision our drug, alcohol and tobacco education plans to provide opportunities for the pupils to: take responsibility for themselves and others, feel positive about themselves, participate, make real choices and decisions, meet and work with people, develop positive relationships, consider moral and social dilemmas. The intention is for all our pupils to follow a progressive programme for drug, alcohol and tobacco education that identifies the requirements of the Science curriculum and PSHE framework.

Organisation

Aspects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education are encompassed within the ethos of the school and may be delivered through: PSHE lessons, Core and foundation subjects, Assembly time, tutorial periods, circle time, literacy lessons, health weeks, focus days, collapsed timetable days, external visitors and project lessons.

Planning to meet the needs of pupils

The needs of the pupils will vary according to the experiences and beliefs of individual pupils or groups of pupils and their families. To assess the needs of our pupils we use: group/class brainstorm, graffiti sheets, photographs, pictures and objects to stimulate discussion, quizzes.

We deal with the subject of drugs through a planned programme and also opportunities as they arise in the classroom.

Inclusion

The statutory requirements and guidance on inclusion as set out in the National Curriculum Handbook for secondary teachers in England (QCA/99/458) are used and applied when planning and delivering teaching and learning activities for drugs, alcohol and tobacco education. Specialist help for pupils can come from: social services, youth workers, Connexions advisers, drug and alcohol services.

Monitoring

The drugs, alcohol and tobacco programme is monitored through lesson observations by relevant staff.

Use of outside speakers and visitors

We are supported in our drugs, alcohol and tobacco programme by using external agencies such as PS Productions and Life Education Centres. A teacher will always be present when visitors are working with pupils. The school follows the guidance in 'School use of visitors and outside agencies in health promotion' published by Somerset Healthy Schools team, 2001.

The Management of Drug related Issues

Medicines

We ensure that pupils know the school rules that all medicines need to be managed at school by teachers and other school staff, and can only be brought on the school premises with teachers' knowledge and approval. Medicines will always be in the care of teachers or other school staff unless otherwise arranged (as in the case of inhalers etc...)

Legal Drugs

In Swanmead Community School, pupils are not permitted to be in the possession of or use of alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, or volatile substances either within the school buildings, travelling to and from school or on school trips. Any found will be confiscated and returned to parents, who will be informed as a matter of course.

Tobacco

Smoking is not allowed within any of the three school's premises both within the school buildings and school playgrounds. The no-smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, for example, parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff and contractors. For those pupils caught the school code of conduct will be enforced.

Alcohol

Alcohol is sometimes permitted on the school site during social events (with the permission of the Headteacher and Governing Body). Standard legal issues apply.

Illegal Drugs

If any pupil is found in possession of illegal drugs, it will be confiscated and stored in the Head's office until arrangements are made with the local police for its collection. The parents will be informed in all cases.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy is monitored and evaluated every three years involving the Headteacher and the Governing Body or earlier if legislation should change.