

BRIMSHAM GREEN SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY **2010**

1. FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Local and National Guidance

This policy replaces one which, with regular review and re-approval, has been in place for many years. The policy was updated following the publication of the Drugs In Schools guidance 2004.

In addition, the following guidance has been consulted whilst revising the policy;

- South Gloucestershire Local Authority Young Peoples Needs Assessment 2007-08
- South Gloucestershire Suggested Actions 2008 – *see appendix 3*
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco education: National curriculum guidance for schools at key stage 3-4 (QCA 2008)
- National Curriculum 2008 Statutory Science Orders
- National Healthy School Programme Guidance – www.healthyschools.gov.uk
- 0-5 Early Years Foundation Stage 2008
- Crime recording in schools Home Office, ACPO and DCSF (DfES) 2004

Context

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies, including Health & Safety, Managing Medical Needs, Behaviour, Child Protection and Anti-Bullying.

Approval & Review

This updated policy was approved by the Governors in December 2009, will be reviewed regularly and formally updated or re-approved during 2011/12.

Responsibility for the implementation, development and review of the policy is vested in:

Mr R Clammer, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Ms P Davies, Co-ordinator of PSHE and Citizenship

Mrs K Ash, Head of Science

Mrs J Dennis, Chair of the Governors' Pastoral Committee and members of that group.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.

- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- Respond to any individual within the school community in need of support.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.
- Establish an atmosphere/environment/situation in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs.

Brimsham Green has maintained its accreditation as a ‘Healthy School’ under the NHS South Glos. Primary Care Trust and therefore has a named member of staff and a governor who are responsible for drug education provision.

The school has a planned drug education programme and understands the role it can play in the national drug strategy and are confident to discuss drug issues and services with pupils.

This policy applies to:

All staff, pupils parents / carers, governors and partner agencies working with schools. It applies on the school premises, fields, and outdoor sports complex; during school hours, the journey to and from school, lunchtimes, school trips, work experience, residential trips, sports fixtures, youth wing evenings, summer school and all other activities organised by the school or occasions when the school has a “duty of care”.

2. DRUG EDUCATION AND STAFF TRAINING

Definition – What is a Drug?

A drug is a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way the body works.

The policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

Rationale

Current research indicates that drug use both legal and illegal has risen amongst young people. As part of the school’s care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate young people about drug use. Drugs are a reality in young peoples lives; schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills. We also believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned.

The School is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and we will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

Drug Education

Drug education in this school aims to enable all our pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills. It will also enable pupils to identify sources of confidential advice and support as school staff are unable to guarantee absolute confidence in serious cases of drug misuse.

The programme we follow will be based on national guidelines provided by the DCFS and will be sensitive to the age and experience of our pupils. It will be delivered through the existing curriculum, mainly the National Curriculum Science Order and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education.

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils. It will be delivered by all staff through the PSHE / Citizenship programme and other specialised subject staff. All units of work and materials are available to staff on the shared drive, and will be reviewed and updated as appropriate. Each tutor team will be supported by a Head of Year, a team of support staff and at least one member of the SLT. but may be based on the work of a specialist team. All staff will be provided with adequate training and support to help them deliver effective drug education and respond to situations with consistency and sensitivity, taking account of religious, social and cultural issues. As part of staff induction and on-going training, we will contact the LEA school drug advisor for details of training programmes, including INSET-training events.

Outside agencies such as the police, connexions, Safer South Gloucestershire team, school nurse and other professionals will be used to complement the programme, following the guidelines for working with outside agencies.

The programme will be evaluated on a regular basis through pupil feedback and staff discussions.

Vulnerable students

Every attempt will be made to identify vulnerable individuals and groups of students, and to provide appropriate enhanced support. Identification will take place through the school's normal academic and pastoral monitoring procedures, SSG discussions, child protection procedures, monitoring of looked after pupils and disciplinary procedures. Concerns will be recorded and advice regarding appropriate individual or group intervention programmes sought from the LEA Drug Advisory Team.

3. MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Management of Drug-related Incidents

A designated member of staff will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies, including the media.

The designated member of staff is Mr R Clammer, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Procedures

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| Medicines | - See school policy on Managing Medical Needs. |
| Tobacco | - The school is a no smoking site. |
| Alcohol | - No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. |
| Volatile Substances | - The School will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely, (see Health & Safety |

Policy) and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosol deodorants will be discouraged because of the potential risks to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.

Illegal Substances - No illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on school premises.

Sanctions of appropriate severity will be applied to the intentional misuse of any of the substances above by any member of the school community on the school premises or while on school trips and visits.

A range of sanctions as outlined in the DfES Guidance (page 67), up to and including permanent exclusion, will be applied for:

- Possession of any drug with the suspected intention to misuse.
- Misuse of drugs on school premises.
- Supply/dealing drugs for the purpose of misuse.

To protect the health and safety of everyone in the school, as part of our regular cleaning and caretaking regime checks will be made of the site. If any drug paraphernalia, particularly syringes, are discovered they will be cleared away immediately and the incident reported to SLT.

Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

This school believes we should be a drug free community. Illegal or illicit substances should not be brought into school and use or supply of drugs on the school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Appendix 1 describes how this school will deal with a range of incidents. The school will decide when and if to inform the Police (in accordance with Police guidelines). The School Drug Advisor will be informed of all of Drug Related incidents, and records kept using the attached flow chart and incident form.

Evidence of drug use by a pupil or possession of a substance will not necessarily result in automatic exclusion. Each case will be assessed and different levels of sanctions will be used according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil's involvement and in line with the school's rewards and sanctions document. Avon and Somerset Police guidance 2008 indicates 'There is no legal obligation on schools or colleges to inform the Police about drug related incidents or to disclose the name of a pupil involved in a drug incident on their premises, the main priority of the school will be to ensure that they keep the child included and engaged and not excluded.' South Gloucestershire summary of actions will provide guidance on when the Police should be involved.

The misuse of illegal drugs, prescription medicines or problem drinking by staff should be regarded as a health matter rather than an immediate case for disciplinary action. (DfES, now DCSF) guidance 2004 page 123)

Advice and Support for Pupils

Information about local drugs and support services will be provided for pupils and parents but staff of the school will not give individual advice to pupils about their personal drug use. All young people can be referred to South Gloucestershire's Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Service on 01454 868763 for advice, information, support and counselling.

Confidentiality

School staff should be made aware that they cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured unless unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibility in relation to: Child protection; Cooperating with a Police investigation, referral to external services.

Every effort should be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. If confidentiality needs to be broken the pupil should be informed first and school should endeavour to explain why this needs to happen.

Dissemination

The attention of parents and students and staff will be drawn to the existence of this policy, which will be posted on the school website and made available to through the school office.

4. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Flow chart on Dealing with drug-related incidents

Appendix 2 - Drug-related incident recording sheet (send to Drugs advisor)

Appendix 3 - Guidance on Responding to incidents involving drugs.

Appendix 4 - Medical Emergencies

Appendix 5 - Young person's substance use screening form

Appendix 6 - Request for Single Service form, to request involvement of external agency

Appendix 7 – Guidance of disposal of discarded needles and syringes on school grounds

Appendix 8 – Useful contacts- organisations and websites

Appendix 9 - Police guidelines on search a young person re suspected drugs incident.

Approved : Mrs J Dennis, Chair of Pastoral Committee

Date: 19 January 2010