

Robinsfield Infant School



Drugs Policy

Reviewed by: Lorraine Hardy

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Review due: April 2018

Introduction

In 2012, the DfES updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the LA, and guidance from the local Drug Action team.

Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Robsinfield School statement

The presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Responsibilities

The headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The governing body will:

- designate to the Ethos and Pastoral committee to oversee this policy
- support the headteacher in following these guidelines;
- inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information, and deal with any misconceptions;

- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Drugs education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science and PSHCE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs begins in the Foundation Stage, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs at school

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Medicine must be self administered unless there is a care plan for the child. Records will be kept of all medication and self administration. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the medical room.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals will be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the headteacher. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school.

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol, we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983. Occasionally, members of staff may consume limited amounts of alcoholic drinks in the staff room once children have left the premises.

The role of parents

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 our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs policy;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about 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.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

Monitoring and review

The ethos and pastoral committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy on an annual basis.