

Northern Schools Federation



Drugs Education and Awareness Policy

Northern Schools are committed to the health and safety of their children and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being. They will actively discourage the use of illegal substances and the misuse of glue, solvents, and prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.

Policy Content

- This policy deals with:
- The drugs education programme
- The management of drug-related incidents

Drugs Education Programme

The aim of the drugs education programme is to:

- Enable children to become accurately informed of the effects - good or bad - of drugs on health and make informed healthy choices
- Make children aware of the legal aspects of drug-taking
- Develop in children the ability to identify risks and help others to do so
- Enhance children's decision-making skills and self-esteem
- Enable children to communicate and discuss drug-related issues
- Enable children to assert themselves and resist peer pressure
- Explore attitudes

Drug education will be part of the Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship programme.

In the infant and lower junior school, children will learn about general issues with regard to medicines and keeping healthy. In years 5 and 6, children will be taught about the use and misuse of drugs according to guidance detailed in Hampshire Children's trust 'Drugs and misuse policy' 2012 and The National Curriculum 2014. Throughout the two schools children will take part in activities which aim to develop their self-confidence and assertiveness.

The main message we aim to give is that:

- All medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines.
- Also not all drugs are bad as some people need drugs in order to stay alive.

Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) receive their entitlement to drug education. The same drugs framework is used as a basis. The focus of teaching however, may be more on developing pupils' confidence and skills to manage situations which require making decisions about drugs, to stay safe and manage feelings.

Outside Agencies

Teachers may call upon other agencies such as the School Nurse, the Drug Advisory Service and the Police to support the delivery of the drug education programme, following school policy on visitors in school.

Management of Drug-related Incidents

Where a child is found in possession of cigarettes, alcohol, glue, solvents or any other inappropriate substance, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

Hearsay or suspicion that a pupil might be engaged in substance misuse or other concerns should be reported to the Head of School or Executive Headteacher to take the appropriate actions. Any incidents will be logged.

If there is a reasonable suspicion that a child has brought inappropriate substances into school, staff will not search a child's property or person, but will try to persuade the child to produce voluntarily the substance by asking him/her to turn out his/her pockets or bag. Where a child refuses to do so, parents will be called.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving substance abuse, the well-being of the child is paramount and all steps will be taken to ensure the child's safety. The misuse of drugs is a serious matter and, in the event of any serious incident, the school will consult the police and parents will be informed.

Staff Development

All staff will be informed of this policy and their own responsibilities.

Tobacco and Alcohol

Both schools have a non-smoking policy and smoking on the premises is prohibited. The bringing of alcohol to the school premises and its consumption are prohibited. However, the school recognises that there are occasions when the school premises are used outside school hours for social occasions when it will be acceptable for alcoholic drinks to be consumed, subject to local bylaws.

The Executive Headteacher will report any serious incidents regarding drugs and substance misuse to the governors.

This policy is available to all parent on our website.

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies, in particular Equal Opportunities, and taking account of the Single Equality Scheme.

Agreed/reviewed: Spring 2017

Next review: See policy schedule

Further Resources and Information

- www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk National Healthy Schools site
- www.drugs.gov.uk The Governments' national strategy
- www.drugeducation.org.uk Drug Education Forum – drug education
- www.sheu.org.uk School Health Education Unit
- www.nc.uk.net/home.html The PSHE Framework
- www.talktofrank.com A Parent's Guide with advice
- www.parentcentre.gov.uk Support for parents
- www.parentlineplus.org.uk Support for parents
- www.hampshiredaat.org.uk Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- www.adfam.org.uk For families of drug users
- www.alcoholconcern.org.uk Services for alcohol related problems
- www.wrecked.co.uk Aimed at young people regarding alcohol
- www.ash.org.uk Action on Smoking and Health
- www.givingupsmoking.co.uk NHS Smoking Helpline
- www.quit.org.uk Independent charity to help smokers
- www.pupiline.net For issues affecting school pupils