

Conway School Drug Policy

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or more frequently as the need arises. It links with PSHE, Behaviour, Science, Child Protection and Health and Safety policies.

Aims

This policy was written to

- Support the welfare of Conway School Community
- To provide a clear framework for the delivery of drug education
- To clarify procedures for responding to drug related incidents
- To have a document that includes both drug education and incident management.

Definition

When this policy refers to the term “drugs” this will mean legal and illegal, socially acceptable and socially unacceptable drugs including medicines, nicotine and alcohol.

Context

The school recognises that we are living in a drug using society in which we need to support young people to make informed decisions. This policy is written in the context of the Governments ten year strategy “Tackling drugs to build a better Britain”. A key objective of the Government is to reduce the numbers of school exclusions and support social inclusion. This policy is an integral part of the schools participation in the National Healthy Schools standards which promotes the health and wellbeing of the whole school community.

This is a draft policy and consultation will be sought with parents, governors, teachers and school staff.

It will be located in the head teachers office. Copies will be disseminated to all teaching staff after initial consultation at designated INSET Summer term 2002.

The School PSHE coordinators role incorporate the role of the school Drug Education Coordinator. Duties include:

- Co-ordinating the programme throughout the school
- Liaising with external agencies

The designated person in this school who responsibility for coordinating the response to drugs related incidents is -----

The lead governor with responsibilities in this area is -----

Drug Education

Drug education is part of PHSE and a planned part of the curriculum. It aims to:

- Enable children to increase their knowledge
- Develop communication, assertiveness, problems solving and decision making skills
- Explore their own and others societies, cultures, feelings, values and attitudes towards drugs.

Our drug education curriculum follows the statutory orders from the National Curriculum Science 2000 and the guidelines from the National Framework for PHSE and citizenship as well as the National Healthy School Standard.

See appendix A

Following these aims we avoid sensationalising drug use, instilling fear through alarmist approaches and/or judgemental responses.

Visitors and external agencies

When visitors or external agencies are employed to contribute to our programme, we ensure that they understand and share our ethos and approach to drug education. We liaise closely in the preparation, delivery evaluation and feedback of the material. However, at all times the Class teacher maintains responsibility for the curriculum and classroom management.

Drug Education, resourcing and methodology

We are in the process of collaboration to use the local Greenwich IDEALS project (introducing drugs education and life skills) who will support staff development by providing INSET and offering parent/governor workshops.

To achieve our aims most effectively, we will use active learning strategies which may include role play, discussion, drama, group work, collages etc.

We evaluate our drug education through a variety of techniques such as discussion rounds, quizzes, role play, draw and write revisited and graffiti sheets.

Responding to drug related incidents

Incidents which could potentially occur in school are:

- Finding drugs or drug equipment on school premises
- A pupil disclosing that a relation/friend is using or selling drugs

- An adult coming onto the premises under the influence of drugs
- A parent seeking advice from school about drug use
- Children bringing in prescription medicines for treatment during the school day.

We recognise the need for a flexible approach as in each situation, individual circumstances may come into play.

(See appendix B for assessment guidelines taken from Greenwich Drug Education – policy and practice)

Responses

Drug situations – medical emergencies, See appendix C (sources as above). The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disoriented or who has taken a harmful toxic substance, will be responded to as an emergency. First Aid procedures will immediately be put into practice.

All incidents will be recorded on our record form and used for monitoring and review of our policy (Appendix D)

In the event of any of the above incidents happening in school, we will follow the Greenwich guidelines which outline procedures for confiscating, searching, storage and disposal (Appendix E)

Legal and Prescribed drugs

Any legal and prescribed drug brought on to school premises must be taken to the office and locked in the safe. Clear instructions for administering the medicine must be written down and parental consent given in writing for a nominated member of staff to administer the dose.

School rules relating to drugs should be made clear to pupils and a copy made accessible for view.

Resources, Local and National Organisations

For a comprehensive list of organisations that can be assessed for help and advice please see appendix G

This school policy covers all situations where pupils are deemed to be in school care and control e.g. school trips and school journeys.

September 2012 – Linda Greenlees

