




ACADEMY DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Document Control Table

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Document History

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Academy Drug Policy

Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust Schools believe that pupils need to be educated in drug related issues in order to understand their benefits and risks.

How This Policy was Developed

In the first instance the PSHE co-ordinator has written this policy in consultation with the Headteachers, Executive Head Teacher, staff and Governors.

This policy is written using the Drug policy framework in the latest drug guidance – February 2004 DfES Drugs: Guidance for Schools.

This policy can be found in the school policies file and the schools learning platform.

The Purpose of the Policy

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the schools.
- Re-enforce and safeguard the health, safety and well being of pupils and others who use our schools.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, 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 the 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.

The policy is aimed at all staff, pupils, parents/carers and external agencies working with the schools. At Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust Schools we recognise that drug use and misuse in our society is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Young people are influenced by their parents/carers, their peers, youth culture and the media. An effective drug education programme in school will help to ensure that young people are aware of the risks of drug taking and have the ability to make informed decisions. Thus, we recognise our responsibility to treat drug use and misuse as an educational issue and to work, where appropriate, in partnership with the police, health services, relevant outside agencies and parents/carers to inform and protect our pupils.

Values

We have a whole school approach to drug education that reflects the ethos of our schools. Our drugs education reflects whole_school aims to provide a caring environment in which students learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health, safety and well being of all members of our schools community.

Aims and Objectives

- For the pupils to be taught about the use/misuse of drugs before the age when they may be tempted to experiment.
- For pupils to understand that drugs as medicine are beneficial when used correctly and can contribute to a healthy lifestyle.
- That the same drugs can be harmful if misused.
- For pupils to know that there are illegal drugs that may be offered and that such drugs are extremely dangerous and addictive.
- For pupils to use and understand the correct definitions and terminology when referring to medicines and drugs.

Definitions and Terminology

Drug - a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco
- all over the counter and prescription drugs.

Drug use – drug taking, for example using illegal drugs, consuming alcohol or taking medicine. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm.

Drug misuse – drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption.

We wish to prepare the pupils to encounter experiences related to drug education without making them unduly apprehensive or encouraging them to take an inappropriate interest.

The policy is in two parts.

1. Education

2. How the school will work to prevent and deal with any drug related incidents in school premises.

Staff with Key Responsibilities for Drugs

The Heads of School/Headteacher and Executive Headteacher has overall responsibility for all drug issues within the school and will oversee the planning and co-ordination and the management of drug incidents.

Within the Trust all class teachers will teach drug education but the Headteachers and LEA's School's Drug Adviser will offer advice and support if and when necessary.

There are identified first aiders who administered by qualified First Aiders in each Key Stage.

The Delivery of Drug Education

The delivery of lessons is designed to give pupils a chance to explore and investigate the subject in several ways across the curriculum e.g. through;

- discussion
- factual based activities
- workshops run by outside agencies
- practical resources.

Key Stage One

1. School rules relating to medicine in school i.e. an adult must bring the medicines into school and give it to an appropriate adult with written consent and instructions as to how it is administered.

2. The medicines are kept in the staff room and given to the child by a teacher or teaching assistant. Parents may come into school if they wish and give the medicines themselves. The two exceptions to this rule concerns the children who need medicine for asthma or nut allergies. The child needs rapid access to their reliever inhaler or epi-pen at all times. So these may be kept in the classroom, in a place known to the child (inhalers, epi-pens are kept out of the reach of children), so they can use the inhaler when necessary. These reliever inhalers will not harm a non-asthmatic child. Named members of staff are fully trained in administering epi-pens.

3. Children are taught basic information about how the body works and how to take care of it so they are fit and healthy.

4. Explain the role of drugs as medicines and why people use them.
5. Understanding that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly. Never take medicine belonging to anyone else.
6. Children are taught about people who help us when we are ill.
7. Encourage children to confide in a suitable adult if they have any concerns or questions involving drugs.

Key Stage Two

1. School rules relating to medicines in school. Medicines must be kept in the Headteachers office. The same applies as previously stated with regards to inhalers and epi-pens. School emergency inhalers are kept in the main office.
2. Children are taught in more detail about how the body works and how to take care of it.
3. Work on different types of medicine, both legal and illegal substances, outlining safety procedures when using medicines and the risks involved in taking illegal substances.
4. Being assertive in situations relating to drug use. Dealing with peer pressure.
5. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety and behaviour.
6. Emphasise the dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.
7. Provide opportunities for children to confide in a suitable adult if they have any concerns or question involving drugs.

Drug Related Incidents on the School Premises

Prevention

An education programme providing suitable and appropriate information at each stage of a child's development.

Rules concerning medicine in school should be strictly adhered to by everyone concerned. We will monitor the use and safe storage of any harmful substances within the schools. The staff should consider their responsibilities as role models for the pupils.

Dealing with drug related incidents.

When dealing with a drug related incident we will consider;

- The welfare of the child concerned.
- Parents must be involved appropriately.
- Legal requirements.

Staff should note any significant changes in behaviour of any pupil, which may be attributed to the use of legal or illegal drugs. This should be brought to the attention of the Headteacher. If after further investigation the use of such drugs is confirmed:

- The pupil's parents will be informed.
- The Heads of School will inform the Schools Educational Social worker
- Any illegal substances discovered will be handed to the police/ school liaison officers.

In an emergency drug related incident the following procedure will be followed:

1. The substance involved will be removed from any possible contact with other pupils.
2. If the safety of the pupils is at risk the child will be sent to hospital immediately with any information known about the substance involved. Basic first aid procedures will be carried out as necessary.
3. Parents of pupils involved will be contacted as soon as possible.
4. Any illegal substances involved will be handed to police/school liaison officers.

Police Involvement

In the event of any incident that is believed to warrant police involvement the Heads of School will make contact with the schools Community Police Officer to seek advice and assistance.

It will be decided by the Headteacher if:

- an incident can be managed internally
- the police should be informed or consulted

The police should be actively involved

A pupil's name can be withheld and when it should be divulged to the police.

It is expected that feedback from both sides will take place as soon as possible after any such collaboration.

Monitoring and Assessment

Various forms of assessment are employed when monitoring pupil progress and understanding of Drug education. At Key Stage Two Drug education is assessed within the Science curriculum and PSHE. Methods of monitoring and assessment include;

- feedback from pupils at the end of lessons in their progress, understanding and achievement.
- Teacher assessment of activities undertaken and work completed.

Referral and External Support

The Trust Schools we will refer to pupils outside agencies if needed in accordance with our child protection policy and confidentiality policy.

Staff Support and Training

The Trust staff can access the continuing professional development courses for drug education. Specific drug related incidents or concerns are discussed at staff meeting.

Training and advice will be sought from the LA's Schools Drug Adviser or SUBS / SOCS

Involvement of Parents and Carers

Parents/carers have an important role to play in supporting drug education within our schools. We encourage parents into school to discuss our approach to drug education, and if they have any concerns about drug related issues.

The Role of Governors

The Governors will support the Heads of School in following drug education guidelines. They will be informed and consulted about any incidents/ concerns and will be invited to any drugs awareness session.

Parents and Carers Under the Influence

If it is found or suspected that a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs on the school premises a calm, responsible approach must be taken. The focus should always be on the child's welfare. It may be necessary to discuss, where possible, with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, e.g. is another responsible adult available to take the child home?

Where this becomes a regular pattern or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent consideration will be taken whether to begin child protection procedures and/or involve the police.

Confidentiality

It is important that staff and pupils know the boundaries of confidentiality before embarking on a drugs education programme. If a pupils wishes to disclose information of a personal nature to a member of staff it should be made clear to the pupil that total confidentiality cannot be promised.

If information is disclosed of a sensitive nature, not generally known and which the pupils asks not to be passed on, then the member of staff should honour this request unless it is avoidable for them to fulfil their professional duties in relation to:

- child protection
- co-operating with a police investigation
- referral to external services.

Sensitive information will only be passed on in exceptional circumstances and the pupils will be informed first to endeavour to explain why this needs to happen. These exceptions are defined by a moral or professional duty to act:

- where there is a child protection issue
- where a life is in danger

Responsibilities

The Heads of School and Executive Head Teacher will oversee all aspects of this policy along with the PSHE co-ordinator and all other teaching and non-teaching staff.