

Mount Street Infant and Nursery School

Drug Education Policy

Date of policy – April 2005

Member of staff responsible – Miss C Goodacre

Date of review – November 2006

Why Drug Education?

The purpose of a drug education programme is to provide opportunities for young people to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to consider the effects of drugs and other substances on themselves and others. Drug education is integrated into the Science, and PSHE and Citizenship programmes. This policy has been written with guidance from the 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES and the LEA.

Aims And Objectives

At Mount Street Infant and Nursery School we aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme enables children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by inappropriate or accidental use of medical drugs, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed, moral and social decisions as they get older.

The main objectives of our drug education programme are

- To provide children with some knowledge and understanding about both legal and illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- To help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, syringes or people misusing drugs;
- To help children respect their own bodies and in so doing reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse in later life.

Definition

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.' Drugs include

- Alcohol and tobacco;
- Over the counter medicines such as paracetamol;
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis.

Illegal and other unauthorised substances are not acceptable within the school premises including the playground. Prescribed drugs should only be brought onto the premises with the permission of the Headteacher and should only be administered by parents or the Headteacher. All bottles or boxes should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Curriculum

Within the Foundation Stage children will have the opportunity to discuss how medicines help us to stay healthy and visiting the doctor/hospital. Simple rules associated with medicines may be discussed highlighting the importance of adults giving medicine to children. Harmful substances that may be found at home including bleach may be identified as dangerous to drink. Children will be encouraged to make informed choices regarding taking medicines or harmful substances.

In Key Stage One children will have the opportunity to discuss the importance of prescribed drugs in relation to staying healthy. The ways in which disease and germs can spread will be identified and the importance of medicine in reducing disease will be discussed. The dangers of harmful substances will be highlighted and the skills to make informed choices will be given. The rules associated with taking prescribed medicines will be identified and harmful substances that may be found at home will be highlighted. The dangers associated with drug abuse will be identified in order to develop self-respect for their bodies and others. Children will be taught what to do if they should come across any drugs or syringes in their local environment.

Organisation

At Mount Street Infant and Nursery School we regard health education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Drug education should not be seen as an isolated topic, but as a continuous process that involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling children to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the child, but also the family, peer groups and wider community. A strong partnership between the school, outside agencies and parents needs to be promoted.

The majority of drug education is delivered through PSHE and Citizenship, and Science programmes by the class teacher using a variety of methods. Great importance is given to active learning sessions including circle-time, and the use of outside visitors such as the school nurse and urban ranger.

Assessment is carried out using success criteria from each session that has been built into the planning. Teachers will evaluate the drug education programme that will then be used by the co-ordinator to inform future planning.

Mount Street Infant and Nursery School believes in the importance training for staff to deliver drug education. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective drug education.

Managing Incidents

A suspected drug related incident is described as

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises;
- A child/parent/carer suspected of being in possession of drugs;
- A child/parent/carer found to be in possession of drugs;
- A child/parent/carer is suspected of being under the influence of drugs.

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should

- Make the situation safe;
- Send for support from named member of staff responsible;
- Administer first aid if necessary;
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police;
- Report the incident.

Where alcohol, tobacco, medicines, matches, lighters or any illegal drugs are discovered on the school premises the standard procedure will always be to confiscate and either to destroy or store in a specified location in the presence of another adult. Only legal drugs will be returned to parents.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a child to the care of an intoxicated parent/carer, particularly when the parent/carer intends to drive the child home. The Headteacher, Mrs Paine will suggest an alternative arrangement for example asking another parent /carer to accompany the child home. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, the Headteacher should consider whether the circumstances are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures or involvement of the police.

If any drug related incidents should occur, the safety and well being of the child will always be the overriding concern. Each incident will be considered taking into account the circumstances of the individual and the parents. Police and other appropriate agencies will be informed according to the needs of the individual concerned.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger s/he talks to the named child protection co-ordinator. At Mount Street Infant and Nursery School this is the Headteacher, Mrs Paine. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

Child Protection

Mount Street Infant and Nursery School has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective drug education may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Dissemination

All staff members, governors and any other adult who wishes to see a copy of the Drug Education Policy can do so. A copy for staff is located in the policy file. Several copies are available from the school office on request from parents.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed by governors on a regular basis. The date for the next review is April 2006.