Drugs Policy

FOREST VIEW SCHOOL

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Owner	BL
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At Forest View Primary School we aim to equip our children and staff with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and to equip them with the social skills to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. We are committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all the members of our school community.

This policy takes account of DFES Drugs: Guidance for Schools Ref: DFES/0092/2004 and the National Drugs Strategy.

The Range of Substances

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- Alcohol and tobacco
- Over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

Procedures for Handling and Reporting Incidents

If an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- 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

Any incident will be reported to the Headteacher who will contact the police. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded and held on file in the Headteacher's confidential records. The Chair of Governors will be informed of any drug incident that should occur.

Confidentiality

If a pupil discloses to an adult that he or she is taking drugs, the adult should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality and the usual safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Drugs Education within the Curriculum

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, especially in Science and PHSE. Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling. In Key Stage 2, we will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking, smoking, volatile-substance abuse and illegal drug.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes, a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse, other health professionals, street wardens or PCSOs. Lessons that focus on

drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs at School

Procedures for handling prescribed medicines is outlined in the school's First Aid and Medicines policy.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Aerosols, glues (other than PVA) and board-cleaning fluids are used sparingly in school, and must be handled and stored carefully by all members of staff. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school premises or grounds.

The caretaker ensures that the grounds are kept clear of any dangerous substances / objects. They check the grounds regularly and ensures that they are safe. Any glass / bottles are removed quickly and safely. Discarded needles would be disposed of via a sharps container. Any unknown substances will be given to the police or disposed of on their advice in the presence of witnesses.

All staff are encouraged to be vigilant around the school grounds, particularly close to the main entrances. Pupils should not pick up any such materials.

The Role of Parents and Carers

We will:

- Inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy;
- Answer questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
- Inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents/carers can support the key messages being given to children at school.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, parents or carers will be informed with an explanation of how the school intends to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of a parent/carer who appears to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol, particularly when they intend to driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement, as the focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where such behaviour places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will report the matter to the Headteacher or a member of the safeguarding team, who will consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures and the involvement of Social Services or the police.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Schools and education are continually changing. Consequently, it is necessary to regularly review the school practices and with it, this Drugs & Substance Misuse Policy so that we can take account of new research, advice or other related developments.