

Drugs Awareness and Medicine Policy (Including needlestick injuries)

Our Vision

At Bournes Green Infant School the governors, staff, children, parents and carers work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust in a community that is strengthened and enriched by a diversity of background, culture and religion. Our priority is to foster the self-confidence, self-esteem and independence of *all* in a climate of growth and opportunity that will enable us to achieve the highest standards. We actively promote a healthy environment in which children enjoy learning and develop the skills needed to become responsible members of society. We aim to bring learning to life.

'**Strength Through Wisdom**' was the original mission statement for our school. Today we nurture our children to be confident and articulate with an enjoyment of learning in the belief that this will enable them to gain strength from their developing wisdom.

See also related policies: Administration of Medication, Equal Opportunities and Race Equality, Special Educational Needs, Behaviour, Child Protection, Early Years, Learning and Teaching, Curriculum, PSHE & Science.

Aims and objectives

We aim to teach children the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers of health posed by the misuse of drugs and medicine, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs and medicines in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To help children respect their own bodies
- 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, medicines or needles
- To enable children to discuss moral questions relating to drugs and medicines
- To ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff

This policy also sets out management strategies for dealing with drug related incidents.

Definition

A drug is defined as a substance that can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically.

This policy will encompass all drugs:

- Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicines
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, heroin, ecstasy

Content and delivery

We regard drugs and medicines education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to talk about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs or medicines sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In regular circle time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs or medicines. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how some drugs can be called medicines.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum as well as having links with the Science programmes of study. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority, DCSF or the LA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

Children are taught drug education during normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug or medicine misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, how we can make a choice and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We encourage our children to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs can be such a problem for society.

The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to:

- Take overall responsibility for this policy
- Manage the response to drug related incidents
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with confidence and sensitivity
- Report to the Governing Body any representations made by parents

The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within the framework.

The role of the Governors

The Governing Body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs and medicine education. The Governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs and medicines education, when requested, so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school

Monitoring and review

Monitoring of the implementation of the document will be undertaken by a PHSE leader and amendments made taking account of any changing trends or new initiatives.

Answering difficult questions

Teachers should, when appropriate, establish with pupils, a set of ground rules, which set the parameters for discussion. These should include:

- Deflecting questions that are of a personal nature
- Recognising the need to offer 1 to 1 support if necessary
- Identifying when there is a concern about abuse and to follow concerns under Child Protection procedures (see Child Protection Policy)

Confidentiality

It is Bournes Green Infant School's aim to support its children but **no individual will guarantee a child absolute confidentiality.**

Staff will use their discretion to inform the Headteacher and 'share' information if it is seen as a concern for the safety and welfare of the child.

Sharps Removal Procedure

It is important to assess the risk of removal of any objects when considering what action is to be taken.

Staff are asked to decide if it is safe for them to attempt removal. There is a 'sharps disposal kit' kept in the school. They must not take avoidable risks. It is also important to consider whether or not the items found need to remain in situ until a police investigation has taken place. If staff are unsure, discuss what action to take with the Headteacher or in her absence a member of SLT.

The area where the object is found must be safeguarded to protect others from injury. If the discovery is made when staff are alone and children or others are nearby, staff must summon help by asking someone to get the 'sharps disposal kit', the Headteacher or in her absence member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), while they 'stand guard'. The incident must be recorded in the appropriate Health & Safety incident or record book.

Removal of Sharps

The following procedure must be followed:

1. Close and safeguard the area until the 'sharps disposal kit' is collected.
2. Follow the procedure as outlined in the 'sharps disposal kit'.
3. If the 'sharps kit' is unavailable, **never** place a needle in a bin without it first being placed in a hard protective container to avoid injury.
4. If the incident involves a hypodermic needle and syringe report the discovery to the local police.
5. In the event of discovering isolated needles or syringes, the surrounding area must also be checked **carefully**. In attempting to do so **do not comb grass by hand**.
6. Neither children nor adults should be permitted to enter an area where syringes or needles have been found repeatedly, unless that area has been fully checked before its use.

Drugs found on premises

The following Procedure must be followed:

All drugs found on the premises are to be reported to the school office.

In the case of prescription drugs and other forms of medication found in the school these are to be taken to the school office by an adult. The school office will then inform the parent and explain our policy of ensuring that medication is kept in the school office and that we require written instructions on the appropriate form before we can consider administering medication to children.

Any recreational drugs found on the premises must immediately be reported to the Headteacher or in her absence a member of SLT. The Police will be informed and their advice sought re disposal and any legal implications. If children are thought to be at risk,

parents will be consulted and Social Services may be informed in line with our Child Protection Policy.

Involving children in rubbish collection

This is acceptable within the confines of the building to tidy away classroom waste. It may also be appropriate in the Early Years play area on the hard surfaces or carpeted section. However, it is not advisable outside in the main playground area or in grassy areas where sharp objects may be concealed.

Needlestick Injuries

Needlestick injuries to be reported to an appointed person. Anyone receiving a needlestick injury will be advised to seek urgent medical attention. In the case of children, an appointed person will inform the parents.

This policy has been revised and reviewed by the Governing Body in Spring 2017. It will be further reviewed in accordance with our Policy and Key Documentation Review Timetable.