



Radford Primary School

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

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The school drugs coordinator is Nicola Waring
Our nominated governor with responsibility for drugs issues is

Their responsibilities are:

Overall charge of the process which forms and reviews the drugs policy

Responsibility for implementing monitoring systems

Responsibility for ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review

Ensuring co-ordination and coherence of drugs education and the management of drug related incidents

Co-ordinating planned action to manage medicines in school

Initiating or co-ordinating responses to any unplanned situation involving drugs

Co-ordinating links with external agencies

Cross-phase liaison with other primary or secondary schools.

Overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Head Teacher.

It is valid from Sep. 07, having been ratified by governors and will be reviewed Sep .08

Partnership and consultation

The policy was developed in liaison with the following people and agencies:
LEA, Parents, Pupils, Staff and Governors

The policy is available from the School office

Other policies that relate to this policy are:

PSHE, Health and safety, Sex and relationships, Behaviour, Medicines

The context of the policy

This policy was written using the DfES Guidance ' Drugs guidance for Schools 2004', Supporting pupils with medical needs, Drugs and school exclusions - conference report. It takes account of the local data available in relation to drug use and issues. We have chosen to use the guidelines for good practice set down by the National Health School Standard, The Blueprint for health document, QCA and Ofsted.

The purpose of the policy

This policy is intended to clarify:-

- A definition of drugs
- The physical and professional boundaries of the policy
- the content and delivery of drugs education,
- what happens in relation to drug related incidents
- support for the school, the curriculum, pupils and staff in relation to drugs issues.

The policy applies within the school, defined as: the perimeter fences and is applied during the hours of 9.00 am - 3.30 pm to All pupil and staff/visitors It also applies on school trips and residential.

Our definition of Drugs:

This policy encompasses all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), all illegal drugs, volatile substances (solvents and gasses) and unauthorised over the counter medicines and any substance misused for intoxication.

The school's stance towards drugs:

It is our belief that drug misuse inhibits the potential and life chances of young people, threatens their physical and emotional health, safety and liberty.

The school is therefore committed to a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances ie: tobacco and alcohol) by pupils, staff or visitors, nor the illegal supply of these substances is condoned. The school accepts that drug issues may impact on young people in a number of ways; through their own or other's use. It may be that the most vulnerable pupils are at most risk of drug misuse and that it is important to keep a view of the whole picture of a pupil's circumstances in order to ensure the best outcome for each individual, balancing adequate drug education with clear boundaries, sanctions and support. It is known that labelling young people as drug users and excluding them from society puts them at increased risk of escalating drug use, we will endeavour to encourage and retain the inclusion of those most vulnerable wherever possible in order to deliver the most effective interventions for that young person. We will work in partnership with external agencies and settings to achieve this where appropriate.

Drug education

Planned drug Education is taught within PSHE, science and PE It is timetabled for 5 hours on average per pupil per year at Key stages 1 and 2.

Aims:

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

Provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs

Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse including their physical and emotional health.

Raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs

Explore and clarify attitudes towards drug use and misuse

Develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions

Identify sources of personal support

To understand that certain people, with particular medical needs will use medication as part of their everyday life and that this is normal for them and that misusing medicine is dangerous.

To enable children to find ways to enhance and maintain good self-esteem, as this may support them in making choices about their health.

In order to make learning accessible to all we use a range of teaching and learning styles including; circle time, ICT, drama, Literacy and Science.

Our principle resources include Whats the Score, On Track, In The Picture and DARE (teacher delivered).

These are stored in resource room.

Support from visitors

Our programme is supported by the Life Education van.

The school appreciates the valuable contribution of outside agencies, but recognises that their contribution alone does not constitute a complete planned drug education programme. We believe it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the contributions made by visitors to the classroom reflect our own philosophy and approach to the subject and that visitors are accompanied by a

teacher when working. We will ensure that suitable preparation and follow up activities are planned to embed the visit into our planned scheme.

Staff support and training

We will ensure that staff have the training they require to implement this policy and to deliver drug education, this will include the Workdays programme.

Management of drugs at school

Medicines:

The school acknowledges that, parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate, this will be recorded on an admissions form stored in School office. Medication will be securely stored in the staff room fridge.

There is no legal duty, which requires teachers or other school staff to administer medication; this is a voluntary role. Where necessary, school staff will receive training on specific medical conditions.

Parents can make a written or verbal request that their child can be able to take a prescribed medicine during the school day. However, in some circumstances a request can be refused – for instance if it is not strictly necessary for the child to have medicine during school hours.

Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored. Further details can be found in the school's medicines policy based on 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs' DFES 1996 (ref 9) and the school parents handbook.

Additional information will be provided by parents/ carers as necessary to cover out of school activities / visits etc

Other drugs:

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other drug-using equipment are found discarded in the school premises.

Smoking:

A no-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. The policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises. This is in line with City Council Policy.

Alcohol:

The use of alcohol by all members of the school community, including visitors, is also prohibited except for occasions deemed appropriate by the headteacher.

Volatile substances:

As part of the schools health and safety policy no misusable solvent or aerosol / gas propellant based products are allowed in school.

The school's policy on searches is:

We will enlist a family member to conduct a search.

If there is a drug related incident, the school will consider each incident individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community. Any sanctions enforced will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions (please see exclusions sections); and will reflect the seriousness of the incident. After immediate medical needs have been addressed the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved. We recognise that any pupil misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency. All staff are familiar with the recommended procedures.

Please note however that under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

'It is an offence for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug.' (See appendix 'The Misuse of Drugs Act - 1971')

All pupils and parents have been made aware of the school's policy after governor approval of the policy, summer 2006.

If young people are under the influence of drugs in school we will firstly ensure their safety and undertake any emergency measures before any further action is taken. If pupils become violent or threatening staff will adopt agreed procedures for the circumstances which can involve the removal from school by an adult family member or if none are available – calling the police.

Police involvement

If parents are under the influence of drugs in school:
the police will be called

The police will be involved:

- If illegal drug is implicated / suspected.
- If drugs need to be identified and disposed of.
- If advice is needed about best outcome for pupil (name will initially be withheld)

However the school is an investigating agency and reserves the right to deal with minor incidents internally if this will ensure an effective outcome. This is done with the support of police and further detail can be found in the Nottinghamshire Police/LEA Drug issues protocol for schools.

Our linked Police Officer for the school is PC Philip Walker (Canning Circus).

The school will involve parents unless there is a specific reason not to.

The needs of pupils

The following internal structures are in place to support pupils with concerns about drugs:

Learning Mentor

We also have partnership arrangements with the following agencies:
STARS to support pupils.

Confidentiality:

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum.

There are some mechanisms within the school, such as the School Nurse, who may be able to grant a greater degree of confidentiality to pupils. Pupils have been made aware of this.

Parental consent:

Our policy on parental consent to access drug agencies or other support through school is that a request will be made to the parents by the person deemed most appropriate by the head / senior teacher. Parents will always be involved if a child sees an external agency such as STARS.

Note: Agencies and personnel will always encourage young people to inform and get support from parents and trusted adults. If there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, information will always be shared.

Involvement of parents/carers

We seek to involve parents/carers in drugs policy and education through the following mechanisms:

Through the amber group , other parents groups, parent governors and parents who work in school.

The role of governors

Governors will be kept up to date with policy and programme issues through the named governor role.

Liaison with other schools

We will ensure that relevant information is shared in transition of pupils to ensure that they are well supported at this time.