



Synergy Schools Policy for Substance Use and Abuse

Rationale

Drug education is vital to enable young people to make informed, healthy and responsible choices about their lifestyle.

Definitions

A drug is a substance which, when admitted to the body, may alter how the body functions, affect the working of the brain, change moods, feelings or perceptions or alter behaviour. Drugs include medicines, tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, solvents and unlawful substances.

This broad definition encompasses drugs which may be regarded as generally helpful (medicines), ones which are socially acceptable (alcohol) and those which are illegal. All drugs have the potential to be harmful.

Drug misuse is the inappropriate use of a substance which is unlawful or which results in the user of the drug being impaired in their bodily functions

Drug misuse includes:

- Unlawful possession or use of a drug
- Unlawfully supplying or intending to use a drug
- Inappropriate use of a drug because of place, time, task or responsibility
- Using medicines not in accordance with instructions
- Using drugs in ways which are harmful to health

Policy Application

This policy applies to everyone on our federation school's premises and all participating in curriculum activities off the school site. To ensure that proper responsibilities are discharged, adults will:

- Refrain from smoking on the school premises and when involved in an educational visit, off-site
- Refrain from being under the influence of alcohol whilst being responsible for children
- Refrain from being impaired in carrying out their duties and responsibilities by reason of medication or other drug use



Substance Education

Our curriculum provides opportunities for children to develop their own knowledge and self-esteem in order to make the right choices about substance use and abuse.

The National Curriculum Science Order states that:

- At Key Stage 1 pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to personal health.

Within PSHE & Citizenship:

- At Key Stage 1 pupils should be taught that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and which are illegal, and their effects and risks. Year 6 pupils undertake a unit of work that is led by a local police officer.

Substance Management and Incident Response

Synergy Schools will consider any substance-related incident on its merits. Responses could range from offering advice and support to punitive measures or a combination of both. Exclusion of pupils will be regarded as a last resort. We will seek to balance the interests of the children involved with those of the remaining school population and the wider community.

All pupil-related incidents will be noted on green paper and placed in the child's personal record folder. Parents will be informed with a view to the school and parents working together to support the individual involved. At the discretion of the Head of School, the police may be informed. As always, the Synergy School's will endeavour to maintain confidentiality, but this cannot be guaranteed.

We believe that the responsibility for the children's education in this matter is jointly shared between the school and parents and therefore we will communicate with parents on substance issues when the need arises. Parents with concerns about drugs are invited to contact the school to speak with the Head of School in confidence.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Executive Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy, its implementation and evaluation.

The governing body first accepted this policy November 2015.

Review date: November 2017.

Review date: November 2019 Synergy Policy.