

THE PRIORY SCHOOL

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

AIMS

The main aim of our drugs education policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Drug Related Incidents Policy, which describes the school's procedures for responding to drug-related incidents.

This policy aims to ensure that we take a whole school approach on the issue of drugs as part of our commitment to being a healthy school.

Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

Sanctions for incidents may be consistent with the school's discipline policy.

This policy also relates to the Administration of Medications to Pupils policy, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Policy, SRE Policy, Behaviour Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

Staff are referred to the DfES Guidance on Drugs for Schools (DfES/0092/2004) Copies held by Head and Deputy.

DEFINITION

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate. The school has the Healthy School's Award and is a non-smoking site, also holding the Roy Castle Clean Air Award.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education is only one part of the PSHE curriculum. Food and nutrition, exercise, hygiene, environmental factors, safety, relationships, sex education and many psychological aspects are all vitally important in developing a healthy lifestyle.

Within its commitment to the Healthy Schools scheme, The Priory provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face

- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Drugs education fits within the overall PSHE programme. It is mainly delivered within the Risky Behaviours units delivered to Year 8, alongside learning about Tobacco and Alcohol.

In Science pupils should consider biological information and health and safety issues. Science also provides opportunities to teach pupils to assess evidence and draw conclusions. The National Curriculum programme of study for Science 'Life Processes and Living Things' requires that pupils are taught about the role of drugs as medicines (KS1) and that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects (KS2)

On the whole teachers teach drug education but where appropriate, outside visitors contribute. Kat Robin as PSHE Subject Leader is responsible for evaluating lessons, purchasing and reviewing resources etc, and most of these are stored in the 10R classroom.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the LEA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

Parents will have the opportunity to discuss the Drugs Education Programme in both Key Stages and will be informed of the Drug Related Incident Policy.

Both policies will be discussed with pupils during their programmes of study during both Key Stages.

RESOURCES

Both KS3 and KS4 have been provided with a Drugs Education box which contains videos, CD Rom, books, visual material, apparatus and teaching notes. These materials are updated on a regular basis and can be located in the central Resource Room and in the 10R classroom. They also contain information on web sites and useful addresses to gain more information. Kat Robin's Medium Term Plans and folders are available to other members of staff upon request.

STATUTORY DUTY OF SCHOOL

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the school of a PSHE co-ordinator, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The quality and effectiveness of teaching drugs education will be monitored by the Head and the PSHE Co-ordinator. There will also be opportunities for peer observations.

Assessment of PSHE is currently undergoing national and local review, as part of the new National Curriculum 2015, and Kat Robin is keeping up to date with developments in this field.

The Governing Body will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.