



Drugs Education Policy for Rush Common School

Introduction

At Rush Common School we acknowledge that drugs affect all communities in modern society. We have a moral and legal obligation to the children in our care to address this issue and to ensure that we do all we can to:

- inform pupils, parents and staff about the risks and consequences of drug misuse, linked to other substances including: alcohol, tobacco and solvents, where appropriate;
- teach young people the skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs, including a more integrated approach to Health Education, with particular reference to DfE and County Guidance;
- help make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable to young people, including the use of effective and targeted national and local publicity and information;
- promote healthy lifestyles and positive activities not involving drugs and other substance misuse;
- build on and disseminate good practice in identifying what works best in prevention and education activity.

Aims

In our school we will aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- insure drug education is part of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) delivered in a supportive environment where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary.
- increase pupils' knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol abuse, the use of solvents and drug abuse;
- help pupils understand the beneficial part drugs play in society;
- teach children that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines;
- educate pupils on how to make informed choices;
- teach strategies to help pupils to resist pressure from their peers.

Effective teaching of drug education will increase pupils' knowledge of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and also enable pupils to:

- improve their self-esteem;
- make informed choices and decisions;
- develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility;
- recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others;
- maintain and develop relationships;
- develop self-confidence;
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations;

- develop the motivation to succeed.

Within the curriculum and the whole school environment, pupils should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practice personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home believing that these, alongside school links, are an essential dimension of drug education. The scheme of work we have adopted is related to the real world and children's experiences.

1. Definition of a Drug

For the purposes of this policy and documentation regarding "drugs" in our school, a drug is a substance that affects the way the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol and tobacco, solvents, over the counter and prescription medicines.

2. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

2.1 Drug Education can:

- address children's individual needs;
- increase access to the curriculum;
- enhance learning skills and develop previous knowledge.

2.2 Drug Education is an important aspect of Health Education for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These pupils may be at greater risk than young people who are more aware of the potential dangers involved. These pupils may be taking medication and it is therefore important to stress the distinction between the importance of the medical benefits and drug misuse. The curriculum should equip these young people with the life skills required to cope with the potential dangers.

3. Health and Safety

All forms of illegal substance are forbidden on the school premises. The school site is designated as a "no smoking" area. Smoking is forbidden and if adults or pupils are found smoking on the site the Headteacher must be notified immediately and will take appropriate action.

4. Medicines

Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

- No child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent.
- Only prescribed medicines will be held in school. School will only accept medicines that are in-date, labelled with the child's name, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin which must still be in-date, but will generally

be available to schools inside an insulin pen or pump, rather than in its original container.

- Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to assess them immediately. If locked away they should know who holds the key. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available.
- Medicines must be signed in and out by the named First Aider at the beginning and end of each term for safe keeping. It is the parents' responsibility to collect medication at the end of each term and return it at the beginning of the next term.
- First Aiders can only administer prescription medicine which requires four or more doses a day. Parents bringing medicine for their child must hand it directly to the named First Aider; medicines must always be brought in and collected by an adult.
- A trained First Aider may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.
- School will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted.
- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.
- School will actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities.

Please refer to DfE statutory guidance "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" April 2014 for further information.

5. Drug Related Incident

The misuse of any drug is regarded as a drug related incident. Children, parents or staff should immediately inform the Headteacher if:

- any evidence of drug/substance misuse is found on school property;
- a child is thought to possess such evidence;
- use or supply of drugs by an individual on school premises; □ they hear reports of a child being offered such evidence;
- a child's behaviour/personality changes as a result of possible drug digestion.

6. Searches, including personal searches and searches of school and pupils' property

6.1 Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school is advised to make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action. Any record must be shared with the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead. There is no legal requirement to do this.

6.2 General power to confiscate

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and

Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

6.3 Involving parents and dealing with complaints

Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child. There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search.

Schools would normally inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.

6.4 Procedures for managing parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school property.

Schools will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. We are pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's needs and in safeguarding the children in our care. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue, the school will follow the procedures set out in this drug policy. This includes protocols for assessing the pupil's welfare and support needs and when and how to involve other sources of support for the child such as Children's Services, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, the family.

6.5 Working with the police

A senior member of staff who is responsible for the school's drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents. This approach should be updated as part of a regular review of the policy.

School would consult with and inform the police following a drug related incident in school.

Schools Liaison Officer is – PC Barraclough, PC6104, Abingdon NHPT
Thames Valley Police 0845 850 5505

7. Whole School Procedures for Staff

7.1 The Headteacher:

- takes overall responsibility for managing the incident and liaising with other organisations like the police and social services;

- should be notified immediately if evidence of drug/substance misuse is uncovered;
- may keep evidence for the police to collect and may pass on information to the police about drug/substance related activities by parents or older children;
- will investigate any report by staff about any child suspected of involvement with drug/substance misuse;
- may notify parents/carers, the GP and/or school nurse.

7.2 Any staff finding evidence should assess whether it is safe to retrieve themselves or whether the Headteacher should be called to make necessary arrangements.

7.3 Children should be kept away as a first priority.

7.4 Records of incidents will be placed in a separate confidential file and kept in the Headteacher's office. The Headteacher will decide whether this information passes to the next school.

7.5 The consequences of drug related incidents involving pupils will broadly follow the same procedures as written down in the school's Behaviour Policy. This policy also relates to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

8. Referral System

Local agencies may be involved, particularly when they have specialist knowledge of drug issues or particular expertise in helping the school meet the needs of pupils who may become involved with unauthorised drugs. These could include:

- local drug and alcohol agencies;
- the School Health Service;
- educational psychologists;
- Social Services.

9. Local and national references

- Department for Education (DfE) and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) drug advice for schools (Sept 2012)
- Aquarius (www.aquarius.org.uk) is an organisation based in the Midlands which provides support to families and individuals regarding alcohol, drugs and gambling. The website has a wealth of information available regarding the dangers of drugs and alcohol specifically aimed at young people. Aquarius has a drug and alcohol worker based at each of the Early Intervention Hubs in Oxfordshire who can be contacted for support and treatment for anyone under the age of 18.
- Please refer to Annex A for further useful organisations.

10. Review of this policy

The Board of Governors, through its Pupil Support and Welfare Committee, review the Policy every three years. It may however review the Policy earlier than this if the government produces new regulations or, if it receives recommendations on how the Policy might be improved.

Approved by the Pupil Support and Welfare Committee of the Board of Governors of RCAT on June 2017

Signed: R Parsonson (Chair of Board of Governors)

Signed: J Stevenson (Headteacher)

Date for Review: June 2020

Annex A – Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org

Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>