

Pensby Primary School



Drugs Education Policy

Mrs K Brown

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Drugs Education Policy Statement

Rationale

Today's world holds many dangers for our youngsters. We believe that by discussing the dangers of drugs and raising awareness, we will empower the children with the information they need to make informed decisions.

We aim to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to lead healthy, independent lives. To encourage the development of children's self-esteem thereby enabling them to make the right choices when confronted by illegal or harmful substances.

The school clearly condemns the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school and the illegal supply of these substances. We are committed to the health and safety of the children and acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in their welfare.

Purpose

- To give the children the opportunity to discuss their understanding of drugs awareness.
- To give the children accurate information about drugs.
- To give the children a clear message about the medical benefits of drugs and the misuse of drugs.
- To enable staff to gain knowledge from the external agencies invited into school.
- To empower the children with the ability to deal with situations involving drugs in an informed manner.

Conclusion

At Pensby Primary we are very aware that some children may have direct experiences with drugs in their home. We also believe we have a responsibility to educate the children about the consequences of drug use. We value our ethos of encouraging open discussion and questioning between the children and the staff. We hope that by providing this education for the children, they will make informed decisions based on accurate information.

Drugs Education Policy Guidelines

Health and Safety of pupils

The school and its grounds are checked for signs of drug use on a regular basis. Any drug related refuse is dealt with in the appropriate manner. In the case of a drug-related medical emergency, this would initially be dealt with by a trained first-aider. Professional help will then be called and the Headteacher notified. Unless the school has concerns for the child's safety, the parents should also be notified [in accordance with the guidelines on Child Protection].

Pastoral care and Support for Pupils at Risk

Appropriate support and counselling will be made available to young people who are drug users/mis-users. In Wirral this would be directed through the health and social teams connected with the school.

Staff are made aware of all support agencies available and the **National Drug Helpline** website www.talktofrank.co.uk when appropriate. These links will be made available to other members of the school when necessary. Whenever possible staff, parents and governors will be offered basic drug awareness training.

Staff should not and cannot guarantee confidentiality to a young person disclosing drug use.

Dealing with Drug Related Incidents:

The Law

There is no legal obligation to inform the Police of any drug related incident, but they may be able to give relevant advice and support. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug.

The law permits staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession.

In the case of possession, staff will:

- Inform the head teacher immediately.
- If instructed, the substance found must be recorded and its disposal witnessed by another member of staff.
- **Not** search pupils although they may be asked to empty their pockets and/or bags.

Discipline

Advice to schools states that "..... Schools will develop a repertoire of responses to incidents, incorporating both sanctions and counselling, reflecting the different kinds of drug related offences, such as possession of an illegal drug, individual use and selling or sharing with other

pupils." It states that permanent exclusion should be used only "as a last resort when all other reasonable steps have been taken"

Pensby Primary School will:

- Consider each incident individually
- Consider carefully the implications of any action, particularly the academic and social needs of the young person.
- Use a differentiated set of responses.
- Work to protect the vulnerability of **all** pupils.
- Remember that school may be the safest place for the young person.

Roles of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and LA and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the Wirral's Policy on Drug and Alcohol Misuse as part of its Health and Safety Policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

External Agencies

The school works together with external agencies. They work annually with the children in year 5 and 6 in a variety of ways:

- Role play - teaching children how to respond to peer pressure.
- Information - gathering the children's understanding of the world around them in relation to drugs.
- Information - clarifying information and correcting any information that is not accurate.

These agencies are involved in detailed discussions before the programme is delivered to the children. Parents are informed and their permission is sought. They are invited to attend the sessions. Parents may request their children are withdrawn from these sessions. The school will respect parent's wishes. Any children withdrawn from a session will join another class and access another area of the curriculum whilst there.

Drugs Education

In all classes the children are taught about drug use in a sensitive and age appropriate manner. This could be through science or PSHE. Most lessons that involve drug education do require prior parental permission as their nature is basic and linked to usual subject teaching. Examples of these lessons include discussion about medicines that help us and the addictions such as smoking. Staff use their professional judgement as to whether their lesson subject matter should be made known to families and permission sought prior to teaching. If a member of staff has any doubt or concern about their planned lessons, or a disclosure, they must report this to the Headteacher immediately.