

Bowhill Primary School

Drugs Education Policy

1. Background

Bowhill Primary School is a community primary school situated in the city of Exeter in Devon. There are approximately 420 pupils on roll aged from 4-11. The school has a PAN of 75.

Mark Burnard, Deputy Headteacher, is responsible for this policy.

Karen Webb is the Governor responsible for this policy.

Working group Mark Burnard, Caren Brooks, Karen Webb, Jackie Nicolle, and Jenny Downing, Carol Blatchford.

2. Objectives

In principle the main objectives of this policy is the well being and welfare of our community. It aims to build children's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness. This policy links closely to many others – see Appendix 1.

The Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals for PSED and Physical Development include:

PSED: Dispositions and attitudes, self-confidence, esteem, control and care, making relationships, behaviour and community.

PhyDev: Health and body awareness, some understanding of what it means to keep our bodies healthy.

In Key Stages 1 and 2 a planned programme of drugs education will be delivered based upon the PSHE and Science curriculum.

3. Organisation

3.1. We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

3.2. Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main focus on drugs education takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the LA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The

resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

- 3.3. The class teacher may seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

4. The role of the headteacher

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 4.2 The headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- 4.3 The headteacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

5. The role of governors

- 5.1 The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

6. The role of parents

- 6.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:
 - inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
 - invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
 - answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;

- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

7. Equal Opportunities

- 7.1. In order to ensure equality of opportunity, all activities will be planned:
- ensuring that boys and girls are able to participate in the same curriculum;
 - taking account of the interests and concerns of boys and girls by using a range of activities and contexts for work and allowing a variety of interpretations and outcomes;
 - avoiding gender stereotyping when organising pupils into groups, assigning them to activities or arranging access to equipment;
 - taking account of pupils' specific religious or cultural beliefs relating to the representation of ideas or experiences;
 - enabling the fullest possible participation of pupils with special educational needs, disabilities or particular medical needs in all subjects, offering positive role models and making provision, where necessary, to facilitate access to activities with appropriate support, aids or adaptations.

8. Curriculum content

- 8.1. In KS1 (Year 2) children will be taught
- what is safe to put into/onto the body and what substances can be harmful if not used properly;
 - that all medicines are drugs but that not all drugs are medicines;
 - the places that are safe, where to get help and the people in the community who can help them;
 - the rules for keeping safe at home and at school;
 - when to keep a secret and when to tell;
 - that they have rights over their own bodies;
 - that some people need drugs to live a normal life and that some drugs can prevent the development of diseases e.g. immunisation.
- 8.2. In KS2 (Year 6) children will be taught
- about the range of legal drugs encountered in everyday life;
 - to have some understanding of the effects of legal drugs and any associated risks;
 - that some substances are illegal;

- to have some understanding of the effects of illegal drugs and associated risks;
- school rules/safety rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs;
- that discarded syringes and needles can be dangerous.

8.3. Accordingly the KS1 and KS2 objectives from the National Curriculum will be met. KS1 children will be taught about the role of drugs as medicine. KS2 children will be taught about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health. The Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals for PSED and Physical Development will also be met.

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Teachers and health professionals working within the classroom cannot offer or guarantee confidentiality. See Child Protection Policy for important links.

10. Management of drug related incidents

10.1. See guidance document in Appendix 2.

11. Monitoring and review

11.1. The curriculum committee of the governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

APPENDIX 1

Anti-bullying Policy
Behaviour and Discipline Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Child Protection Policy
Confidentiality Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy
Looked After Children Policy
PSHE and Citizenship Policy
Race Equality Policy

Healthy Eating Policy
Security Policy
Sex and Relationships Policy
Science Policy
Healthy Schools Programme

APPENDIX 2