



# **DRUGS POLICY**

**(non-statutory)**

Reviewed: May 2015

Policy approved: by Headteacher May 2015

Next review May 2020

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 19, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37

**You have the right to be protected from harm in any way.  
You have the right to be protected from being taken advantage of or exploited in any way.**

Newlands Primary School is committed to the health and safety of all its pupils and staff and will take action to safeguard their well being.

The school is strongly opposed to the use of illegal substances, alcohol and tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines.

We believe that our school, as part of its care and welfare of all pupils, has a duty to inform and educate young people of the consequence of drug use and misuse.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by working in partnership with them and keeping them informed at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

At Newlands Primary School, the term drug is to include:

- Illegal substances
- Substances which are legal but can be misused\*

\* some of these substances would not be acceptable for possession and use by pupils on school premises e.g. alcohol and tobacco

\* other substances would not be acceptable, for example, glue, solvents and over-the-counter medicines, would be acceptable for possession and use on the school premises, provided this is for their intended and proper use.

## **Policy**

**This school is committed to the health and safety of its children and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being.**

**It will actively discourage the use of illegal substances and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines.**

The headteacher is the member of staff responsible for the management of Drug Education throughout the school.

There will be opportunities for teachers, parents and governors to become better informed through evening sessions led by the school in co-operation with school partners. If this arouses media interest all queries will be dealt with by the headteacher.

## Medicines

Certain prescribed medicines are allowed into the school. If a child is on long or short term medication a form of consent, for the administration of this medicine by a member of staff, is needed.

For the administration of medicines please refer to the **‘Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs’** policy.

## Drug Education Programme

### Aims:

- To enable children to become accurately informed on the effects, good or bad, of drugs on health and make healthy informed choices.
- To enable children to experience up to date coverage of the risks and legal aspects of drug taking.
- To give children the opportunity to develop their abilities to communicate their concerns and take responsible decisions.

It is felt that drug education should start at least two or three years before the likely age of experimentation.

**Age 5-7 children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.**

- **Linked to Science Curriculum: Health and Growth**

**Age 7-11 children should be introduced to the fact that while all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.**

- **Linked to Science Curriculum: Health, Sex Education and Relationships and Keeping Healthy.**

Where planning permits it will also be taught at other times. We hope to ensure that drug issues are reinforced throughout the child's education, so matching their increasing understanding and maturity.

- i) Within PSHE, children will be taught about the use of drugs, both legal and illegal, including the most important facts, their uses and the dangers of all types of drugs.

Drug Education is mainly integrated into Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

In Year 3, teachers will reinforce Key Stage 1 work on drugs and medicines and cover various aspects such as body defences and what makes things dangerous.

In Year 5, children are taught more about solvents, alcohol and other drugs. Strategies are developed to help children resist pressures and to become more aware of conscious and subconscious messages they may receive about drugs.

In Year 6, children are taught about smoking, including the media's representation of smoking over the years and the dangers and illnesses which can be caused by smoking.

Key messages about attitudes towards drugs continue to be reinforced through the five rules designed to help children become more aware from a young age that they can keep themselves safe:

- Think before you do!
- Make up your own mind!
- Trust your own feelings!
- You can say NO!
- Ask for help if you need to!

**Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy.**

The Drug Education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse
- Practise decision making skills
- Become aware of peer pressure
- Develop assertiveness skills
- Consider the consequences of risk taking
- Learn how to access sources of help and information
- Emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- Evaluate media messages on drug use

### **Pastoral Support**

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well being of its pupils.

Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful Drug Education programme.

All incidents or concerns will be logged by the headteacher or representative. Parents will also be informed, unless linked to an abuse case and provisions made for any outside help, such as police officers or health professionals.

Where illegal substances are involved these outside agencies will automatically be informed.

If a pupil voluntarily discloses information about drug abuse it is important to follow the procedures outlined in our **Safer Schools Model Child Protection Policy**. Staff should inform the CPLO, or DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) of all drug-related incidents.

### **Managing Drug Related Incidents in School**

'In school' is taken to mean on the school premises, including buildings and grounds. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips. The policy will also relate to pupils' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

### **Hearsay**

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed onto the headteacher who will record the matter as hearsay evidence. This will enable a record to be compiled of teachers' concerns and where necessary help and support offered to the pupil. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one calendar year, the evidence will be removed from the records.

### **Suspicious Behaviour**

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

### **Finding Substances**

We reserve the right to search an individual's property with due sensitivity, with regard to any drug related incident (in accordance with DFE regulations.)

If a harmful, illegal substance is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal, the police must be informed.

If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- The date and time of the find and retrieval
- The size and appearance of the substance
- The names of those concerned
- The action taken

If any equipment associated with drug use is discovered, the items should be handled with care. The incident should be recorded and in the case of items such as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed.

## **Searching**

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school and the headteacher or representative may authorise a search of these if there is a reasonable suspicion. The search must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies. Staff should not search a pupil's property or person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking them to turn out their pockets or bag. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil a police officer will be required and parents must be informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance.

## **Finding Drug Misuse**

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well being of the pupil is paramount. In all instances:

- Separate the child involved from the rest of the group
- Decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare
- Inform parents

## **Supplying Illegal Substances**

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

## **Returning Articles Which Have Been Confiscated**

Articles confiscated not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will need to be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the articles to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

## **Staff Development**

All staff need to:

- Understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education
- Be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.

This will be done through staff meetings.

It is important that, by staff, governors, parents and children themselves working together, we can safeguard the well being of all the pupils in our care by educating them about the dangers of drug abuse.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The HT and PSHE leader will monitor the policy implementation. The success of the policy will be evaluated by the same in conjunction with the governors' Improvements Committee.