

Redmile Church of England Primary School



Drugs Education Policy

Person responsible: Mrs J.V.Hopkins

Date adopted: Autumn 2007

Review date: Autumn 2009

Aims and Objectives:

Redmile Church of England Primary School has developed this Drugs Education Policy as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

At Redmile Church of England (Controlled) Primary School we provide a broad and balanced education for our children, which aims to develop their personal potential to the full within a caring environment.

(Aims Statement)

Within the Drugs Education Policy we teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and we aim to equip them with social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decision in relation to drugs in society.

Definition of ‘Drugs’

This policy uses the definition that a drug is:

‘A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave’.

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

The term ‘Drugs’ includes

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Key documents which have informed this policy outline:

- Drugs: Guidance for Schools, DfES/0092/2004 www.dfes.gov.uk/drugsguidance

The main objectives of the school drug education policy are to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

The Education Programme:

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. In teaching the curriculum, we follow the guidelines provided by the LA. The resources and materials we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA.

- We aim to provide children with appropriate knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.
- We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking.
- We aim to enable children to understand and discuss the moral questions related to drug taking.
- We teach children to respect their own bodies and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.
- We teach children what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs.
- We encourage children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health.
- We encourage them to listen to the views of others and we teach them to explore why drugs are such a problem in today's society.
- We endeavour to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Redmile CE Primary School is involved in the Leicestershire Healthy Schools programme.

Redmile CE Primary School will inform our pupils and their parents/carers that illegal and unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the boundaries identified within this policy.

Policy Links:

The Drugs Education Policy links with other policy documents used to monitor and manage the teaching and learning at this school:

Administration of Medicines Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy
Anti-Racism Policy
Anti-Smoking Policy
Child Protection Policy
Confidentiality Policy
Health & Safety Policy
Personal, Social & Health Education Policy
Physical Education Policy
Positive Behaviour Policy
Sex & Relationships Education Policy
Special Educational Needs Policy

Key Learning Objectives:

Content for our Drugs Education Programme of work (see attached) has been created with reference to the frameworks for PSHE and Citizenship, the National Curriculum Science Order, Drug, alcohol and tobacco education – curriculum guidance for schools at key stages 1-4 (QCA 2003) and The Life Education Centre programme of work. (www.qca.or.uk)

Key Stage 1 Objectives

Rules are important.

Feeling unwell and the role of medicines.

How medicines can be harmful and related safety issues.
Why we use medicines and who can help us.
Safety around household substances.

Key Stage 2 Objectives

Taking a risk.
Weighing up the pros and cons of taking risks.
Why take risks? The pressures and influences on us.
Smoking – weighing up the risks.
Resisting unhelpful pressure or influences.
What do we already know and understand about drugs?
Learning about alcohol and tobacco.
Attitudes to drinking alcohol and smoking.
Debating a topic.
Influences, decisions and choices.
Legal and illegal drugs and associated risks (including addiction).
Exploring alternatives.

All pupils will explore the following key topic areas at different levels according to age and/or level of development:

- Healthy body
- Healthy eating
- Healthy lifestyle
- Medicines
- Positive self-image; developing self-confidence and assertiveness
- Safety issues and rules
- Feelings
- Friendships/cooperation, bullying
- Personal hygiene
- **Taking responsibility for one's own safety and behaviour.**

Methodology and Resources:

A wide range of teaching methods will be used including discussions, role play, case studies, drama, debates, questionnaires, structured games and other active/creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues. Circle/'R' time is also employed to give each child the opportunity to express their feelings and opinions. Ground rules will be established for group activity/discussions where sensitive issues are concerned.

- We will try to involve the school nurse in the delivery of drug education across the school, whenever possible.
- The 'Primary Schools Drug Education Pack' will be used for activity ideas and is located in the resource area. Also available are a wide range of activities sheets, lesson ideas and videos. The internet is also a good resource: 'Talk to Frank' is a useful site.

Staff Training and Support:

All staff, including support staff, should have access to professional development and support that relates to the PSHE/Drugs Education curriculum and its style of delivery, where needs are identified.

Areas of staff expertise and individual staff development needs will be identified through existing staff development systems. This will be ascertained through scrutiny of planning or performance management.

A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities and appropriate training provided.

Assessment and Monitoring:

The assessment, recording and reporting of drugs education will take place in accordance with whole school policy.

Understanding in drugs education will be demonstrated through assessment against learning objectives, which will be built into curriculum planning. A variety of assessment techniques will be used, including discussion, scrutiny of work and pupil self- assessment.

The Curriculum Development Committee, will monitor and assess the implementation of the Drugs Education Policy. They will report their findings to the full Governing Body.

Written records of any and all incidents will be maintained by the Head Teacher and reported to the Governing Body.

Management of drugs at school: (see Appendix A for guidance)

- *As this is a primary school it is highly unlikely that we will have to deal with a drug-related incident, however there needs to be procedures in place just in case a drug related incident occurs.*
- *It is also highly unlikely that the police will need to become involved, however if in the unlikely event that the police are contacted this will be handled in line with the Leicestershire Constabulary Guidance for Schools doc.*

This school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol nor the illegal supply of these substances.

This school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.

This school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in children's welfare.

The Head teacher and governing body will take the final decision on my response to an incident.

In making a decision the school seeks to balance as far as possible the interests of the students involved, other school members and the local community.

This school seeks to work in partnership with parents and as such would inform parents at the earliest possible opportunity dependant on any possible child protection issues.

The Head teacher or his/her agent will also contact the police and subsequently decide on what action is to be taken.

Permanent exclusion is always seen as a last resort but action will always be taken in any case where possession is proved.

Where a student has been involved in an alcohol or drug related incident, the school will endeavour to secure appropriate care and support to the student and their family.

*See Appendix B for more detailed examples of how to deal with and handle drug related incidents **on site**.*

For guidance of 'police involvement', please see Appendix C.

Support for pupils and families:

Will be provided in partnership with the LA

Leicestershire County Council is a partner in the DART (Drug and Alcohol Response Team) network. This is a local network of statutory and non-statutory agencies committed to providing high quality and consistent advice, support and treatment to young people and families with substance misuse problems. It is recommended that schools promote and use the services of New Direction 0116 2229559, a county and city-wide young peoples service.

Control of specific substances:

Medicines-

Prescribed medicines will be stored and handled in line with the Administration of Medicines Policy document.

Staff training will be undertaken as appropriate for the use of Epipens for identified children.

Tobacco-

This school has a **no-smoking policy** enforced on the whole site.

Alcohol-

Alcohol is not consumed on school premises during school opening hours. The school offers guidance on suitable drinking products for the children with reference to any beverage that may contain stimulants like caffeine and are deemed inappropriate for young children.

Solvents- .

The school ensures that potentially harmful substances are stored safely and pupils are supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of correction fluid and aerosol sprays by children is prohibited. Caretaker's materials are well labelled and locked in a secure cupboard.

Illegal Substances-

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and will be dealt with in line with adopted school policies.

The law -

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of substances suspected of being illegal drugs for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued -

provided that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the substance or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

Where a school has recovered drugs from a pupil, or suspects that a particular pupil is in possession of an illegal substance the police may be asked to attend. Where the pupil is suspected of having possession but has refused to hand it over to a member of the teaching staff, only a police officer has powers available to search under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The police officer attending will seek to obtain the reasonable grounds required for searching from information given by school staff.

The role of the Head Teacher

- It is the responsibility of the Head to ensure that staff and parents are informed about the Drugs Education Policy and that the policy is implemented effectively.
- It is the Head teacher's responsibility to ensure that all staff are given appropriate training.
- The head Teacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme.
- The head teacher will monitor the policy and report to Governors.

The role of the Governors

- The Governing Body has the responsibility of drawing up the guidelines for drug education policy.
- The Governors will support the Head teacher in enforcing the policy.
- Governors will inform and consult with parents in adopting the policy.
- Governors will liaise with LA and Health organisations to ensure that the school policy is in line with best advice available.

The role of the Parents

- The primary role in any Drugs Education Programme must be played by the child's parents/carers.
- The school will build a positive and supporting relationship with parents to the benefit of the children.
- Parents will be informed of the Drugs Education Policy and teaching programme.
- Any issue raised will be taken seriously by the school.

Confidentiality:

The schools will ensure that sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupil's and families rights and needs.

Staff will always endeavour to reassure any child that seeks help for a particular problem or situation recognising that it may well have taken significant courage on the child's part to disclose and information and that the child may be experiencing conflicting emotions.

The school will remember the pastoral responsibility of the education service as a whole.

A designated teacher is responsible for all child protection issues; at Redmile CE Primary School this is the Head teacher.

Appendix A

Medicines- Attention should be paid to Leicestershire County Councils Code of Practice No.5 – The Voluntary administration of Medicines in Schools (Reissued January 2005) when developing the school Medicines Policy.

Tobacco- Schools working towards National Healthy Schools Status are required to have a No-Smoking policy in order to be accredited. The DfES ‘expects to see all schools making significant progress towards smoke-free status.’ (DfES Drugs: Guidance for Schools 2004). State your schools policy around smoking on the premises.

Alcohol- If alcohol is authorised at school, for example at parent/carer events, the arrangements for storage or use should be agreed and adhered to. It is an offence under the Licensing Act 1964 to sell alcohol without a licence. However, no licence would be needed by the school to offer alcohol at school events where no sale takes place.

Any alcohol found in pupil’s possession should be confiscated and returned to parents. Schools may wish to emphasise that drinks such as shandy contain alcohol and should not be bought to school or included in packed lunches. The school may also want to offer guidance on ‘energy drinks’ as these can contain levels of caffeine inappropriate for children.

Solvents- State the procedures for safe use and storage of solvent-based products. *The school ensures that potentially harmful substances are stored safely and pupils are supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of correction fluid and aerosol sprays by children is prohibited. Caretaker’s materials are well labelled and locked in a secure cupboard.*

Illegal Substances- The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and in dealing with drug related incidents the schools primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole.

1. Key documents which have informed this policy outline:

- Drugs: Guidance for Schools, DfES/0092/2004 www.dfes.gov.uk/drugs_guidance
- School Drug Policy Review Process - Blueprint 2004 www.drugeducationforum.co.uk
- Creating A Drug Policy For Your School – Guidelines on the Creation and Maintenance of a Drug Policy – Devon County council, www.devon.gov.uk/dcs/perseduc/index.html

2. Additional useful websites

- www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe
- www.qca.org.uk

3. Support for students and families

- New Direction Leicestershire County Council is a partner in the DART (Drug and Alcohol Response Team) network. This is a local network of statutory and non-statutory agencies committed to providing high quality and consistent advice,

support and treatment to young people and families with substance misuse problems. It is recommended that schools promote and use the services of New Direction 0116 2229559, a county and city-wide young peoples service.

Appendix B

EXAMPLE SCENARIOS FOR ON SITE DRUG INCIDENTS

(Guidance taken from 'Drugs: Guidance for schools, DfES 2004)

Parents / carers under the influence of drugs on school premises

When dealing with parents under the influence staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil to the parent / carer. In such instances, schools might wish to discuss with the parent / carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example asking another parent / carer to accompany the child home.

The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent's / carer's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of the parent/ carer under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedures.

Confiscation and disposal of unauthorised drugs

The presence of a second adult witness is advisable.

Alcohol and tobacco

Parents / carers should normally be informed and given the opportunity to collect alcohol or tobacco unless this would jeopardise the safety of the child

Volatile substances

Given the danger levels schools may arrange for their safe disposal. Small amounts may be placed in a bin for which pupils do not have access, for example a bin within a locked cupboard.

Medicines

Disposal of medicines held at school should be covered in the schools medicines policy.

Drugs or paraphernalia

Needles or syringes found on school premises should be placed in a sturdy, secure container using gloves. Soft drink cans or plastic bottles should not be used. Used needles or syringes should not be disposed on in domestic waste.

Disclosure (e.g. of pupil's own drug use or parent /carers drug use)

Offer further information and advice. Consider whether drug use could be problematic or indicate other problems requiring further action.

Consider issues of confidentiality and explain these issues to the pupils/ parents involved. Inform head teacher of designated member of staff who will begin further investigation.

Pupils in possession of an unauthorised drug

Remove drug / paraphernalia, temporarily store the drug securely, record the details with a witness present and inform the head teacher or designated member of staff.

Appendix C

Guidance for schools: Drugs – Involving the Police

The misuse of drugs in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is a growing issue for all areas, from the larger urban centres to the most rural communities. Misuse of drugs is often associated with levels of poverty, deprivation and crime. While there is some correlation, the growth in drug misuse is such that it affects all our communities irrespective of social disadvantage or privilege and new ways of tackling substance misuse issues have to be found.

Whilst schools should have an effective education programme and policy and procedures for dealing internally with drugs related incidents, there are occasions when circumstances arise which cause schools to involve the police.

Police drug operations within schools are an emotive subject that requires careful planning and clarity of search powers. Recent publicity about the use of "sniffer" dogs has caused further questions as to the legality of certain actions.

It has been decided therefore to provide head teachers with this specific advice and guidance on what to expect if the decision is taken to contact the Leicestershire Constabulary.

DfES "Drugs: Guidance for schools" (February 2004 - Ref: DfES/0092/2004)

All schools should refer to the document "Drugs: Guidance for schools" published by the DfES in February 2004. This is a comprehensive document which outlines how to deal with substance misuse incidents, what should be included in a schools drug policy, and who should be involved in the consultation, dissemination and evaluation of the policy. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the relevant laws.

Police Involvement

Schools have no legal obligation to report an incident involving illegal drugs to the police. Nevertheless, not informing the police may prove to be counter-productive for the school and wider community.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of substances suspected of being illegal drugs for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued - provided that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the substance or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it (see DfES guidance para 4.7 for further advice).

Cannabis has been re-classified as a Class C drug. As such it remains an illegal substance. Small quantities of this substance coming into the possession of staff may be disposed of independently but with a second member of staff present and the incident being recorded. The following are the most common Class A & B drugs and substances suspected of being any of these should be retained for disposal by the police: heroin; ecstasy; LSD; cocaine; crack cocaine and amphetamines.

When suspected illegal substances are handed over to the police, there is no obligation to identify the person from whom they were taken. However, the police will expect to be given any information that may assist in identifying those dealing in drugs.

Schools should be aware that once a police officer (as opposed to a member of school staff) finds illegal drugs on a pupil, the school's discretion as to what action to take no longer exists.

Urgent action required

Where a school has recovered drugs from a pupil, or suspects that a particular pupil is in possession of an illegal substance the police may be asked to attend. Where the pupil is suspected of having possession but has refused to hand it over to a member of the teaching staff, only a police officer has powers available to search under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The police officer attending will seek to obtain the reasonable grounds required for searching from information given by school staff.

Non-urgent action required

Schools may have cause to suspect that illegal drugs are in wider circulation in or around the school. If the decision is taken to involve the police in seeking a resolution, initial contact must be with the Local Policing Unit (LPU) Inspector. This can be done by calling 0116 2222222 and asking for the LPU Commander for your area.

Joint discussions about the perceived problem need to take place before a decision is made as to whether/what type of police action is required. From a police perspective, any operation will only be based upon recent and credible intelligence.

Head teachers are not empowered to authorise the police to conduct general searches of pupils or their personal property. Under normal circumstances the police will not use passive¹ or proactive² dogs to search pupils and their property unless there has been sufficient evidence to obtain a search warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act from a magistrate. (See DfES guidance para 4.10.2 and appendix 10). There are serious implications for schools when "sniffer" dogs are used. These are outlined in appendix 10 of the DfES guidance and need to be considered carefully.

Because of limited resources, demonstrations of drugs searches by police dogs are not available on request but are sometimes arranged as part of a wider response to suspected drug use. Where such a demonstration is arranged it will not be used surreptitiously as a detection exercise and participating volunteers will be sought from staff and not pupils.

If Police are invited to become involved in dealing with suspected illegal drug possession, the school should have procedures in place of how to deal with the aftermath of such operations. Involvement of the police should be covered in the schools drug policy or as a separate set of procedures (see DfES guidance, appendix 10 to ensure that all eventualities have been covered).

These guidelines must be read in conjunction with the Drugs: Guidance for schools document, which outlines police involvement (section 4.6).

Options other than police action

¹ Dogs will be led by Police Employee and will indicate possible presence of an illegal substance by sitting.

² Dogs will search property and retrieve any potential substances.

Existing Drugs Education Programme that is being delivered in the school

Heightened awareness via assemblies

Further support via Healthy Schools Advisors who provide training, guidance and support on drugs policies and best practise for drugs education to Local Education Authority (LEA) primary and secondary schools:

Tel: 01572 758484 (Rutland)

Tel: 01530 278125 (County)

Tel: 0116 2222624 (City)

Appendix D

Primary Drug Scenarios

- A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age, e.g. a year 4 pretends to roll/build a joint/spliff in the playground.
- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises; e.g. a year 3 pupil finds a used syringe on the playground.
- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia E.g. a year 5 pupil drops from their school bag a packet of large cigarette papers with some of the card torn off.
- A pupil is found supplying drugs on school premises, E.g. a year 6 pupil is selling cigarettes.
- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs, e.g. a drunken parent arrives to take a child home.
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of substances is taking place in the local area, e.g. a teacher overhears a pupil saying that they knew another pupil who bought lighter fuel from the local shop.
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs, e.g. a year 3 pupil drops a piece of cannabis on the floor and when asked what it is and where he got it he says he doesn't know what it is, but his dad was cutting it up on the kitchen table.