



Drugs Education Policy

Formally adopted by the Governing Board/ Trust of:-	Greenshoots Federation
On:-	March 2023
Chair of Governors/Trustees:-	Tim Jermyn
Last updated:-	March 2023

Introduction:

A drug is any substance which affects the way in which the body functions either physically, or mentally. This includes legal, over-the-counter and prescribed drugs as well as illegal drugs. The most commonly misused drugs used by primary aged children are nicotine, alcohol and solvents. The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies. This school believes that the possession and use of drugs apart from medicines is inappropriate.

Aims:

- to ensure that the children at Greenshoots Federation have an understanding of the implications and dangers associated with the use and misuse of drugs, and develop the ability to make informed decisions about their attitudes towards drugs.
- to support all who are involved in the education of the children to become 'drugs aware' i.e. staff, carers, parents, governors, volunteer helpers.
- to ensure an adequate plan of action is in place to enable the school to manage a drug-related incident.

Education:

Drug education forms part of the Science and Relationship, Sex and Health Education curricula of the school. Specifically, the children in KS1 are taught about the role of drugs as medicines.

In KS2 the children are taught about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health.

In both Key Stages they are taught to recognise that there are hazards in living things, materials and physical processes, and assess risks to take action to reduce risks to themselves and others.

On the whole teachers teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school's drug policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The Federation operates a 'No Smoking' policy applicable to all sites.

The Federation is aware of the need for sensitivity when dealing with this topic as some parents/carers may be drug users themselves.

Managing an incident:

Incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, will lead to parents being

informed at the earliest opportunity by the Head Teacher. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but informing the Head Teacher is appropriate action. The Head Teacher will inform the parents or police as appropriate. However, there is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, supply or use of any controlled drug. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Affairs Department.

The governing body will be involved in drug education and dealing with drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

The schools will consider each incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The schools will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

The Head Teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

Some of the following actions need to be taken when an incident is discovered, depending upon the seriousness of the incident:

- Establish the facts
- Involve senior colleagues
- Inform Chair of Governors
- Contact parents/carers
- Contact LA/support services
- Contact police
- Assist police investigation
- Convene group of specialists for consultation
- Draw up action plan to ensure a balance between the needs of the child and the best interests of the school
- Possible exclusion of pupil
- Decide how to deal with media, and prepare press release
See Appendices 1 and 2.

When deciding upon the action to take after an incident the following are important:

- The immediate needs of the child
- The educational needs of the child
- Keeping written records of all investigations and discussions – see Appendix 3.
- Ascertaining the exact nature of the incident before deciding upon any action.

As a school, we follow the guidelines as laid down in Drug Education Guidelines (Norfolk Educational Press. 1993).