

"At Hilltop Infant School everyone will work together in a nurturing environment to provide each child with challenging opportunities that encourage a desire for life long learning"



Hilltop Infant School
Drugs Education Policy

Ratified by the Governing Body February 2009

Signature David Harwood

Chair of Governors

Due for Review 2010

Hilltop Infant School Drugs education Policy

Why teach drug education?

The purpose of a drug education programme is to provide opportunities for young people to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable them to consider the effects of drugs and other substances on themselves and others. We recognise that misuse, either by themselves or by adults around them, can have a profound effect on the health, well-being and academic achievement of our children.

A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. Drugs include

- Alcohol and tobacco
- Over the counter medicines such as paracetamol
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics
- Volatile substances such as glue or aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis.

Aims and Objectives

At Hilltop Infant School we aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme enables children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach the children about the dangers to health posed by inappropriate or accidental use of medical drugs and we aim to equip them with the social skills to enable them to make informed moral and social decisions as they get older.

We aim to give the children opportunities to:

- Prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- Develop self-respect and empathy for others
- Develop critical thinking as part of decision making
- Learn how to protect themselves and how to ask for help or support
- Know that all medicines are drugs but that not all drugs are medicines
- Know that all substances can be harmful if not used properly
- Know about medicines and that some people need them to live a normal life
- Know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and other substances.

Curriculum and Delivery

Drug education is integrated with the Science and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship aspects of our curriculum.

The National Curriculum 2000 provides the framework around which we build our drug education programme. The requirements for children at Key Stage 1 are set out within the National Science Curriculum Sc2 Life Processes and Living Things which states that children should learn “to understand the role of drugs as medicines”, and within the 4 strands of the PSHE and Citizenship framework. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum includes opportunities for drug awareness through the early learning goals for personal, emotional and social development and for the development of a child’s knowledge and understanding of the world.

Within the Foundation Stage children will have the opportunity to discuss how medicines help us to stay healthy as well as things like visits to the doctor or hospital. Simple rules associated with medicines may be discussed highlighting the importance of “safe” adults giving medicines to children. Potentially hazardous substances found at home, eg. bleach or cleaning products may be identified along with the importance of not touching or consuming these. Children will be encouraged to make informed choices.

In Key Stage 1 children will have the opportunity to discuss the importance of prescribed drugs in staying healthy. The ways in which disease and germs can be spread will be identified and the importance of medicine in reducing disease will be discussed. The dangers of harmful substances will be highlighted and the skills to make informed choices will be taught. The rules associated with taking prescribed medicines will be identified, including those relating to taking medicines in school and we will continue to make children aware of potentially hazardous substances found within the home. The dangers associated with drug abuse will be identified in order for the children to develop respect for their own and the bodies of others. Children will be taught what to do should they come across drugs in their local environment.

The drug education programme will be delivered through designated PSHE lessons, Circle Time or the national curriculum science lessons delivered by the class teacher but may include input from other health professionals such as the school nurse. The programme for drug education will be spiral, relevant to the levels of understanding of the children and linked to work on safety, relationships and communication. It will offer accurate information, focusing on the relevant needs of the children, and it will be inclusive, ensuring that all children have access to and benefit from the programme of work.

Assessment

Teachers assess the children's work in drug education by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and by reference to success criteria relevant to the lesson. There are clear expectations of what pupils know, understand and will be able to do at the end of Key Stage 1 within the National Curriculum 2000. The PSHE and Citizenship coordinator, Mrs Kelly, will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the drug education programme within school.

Resources

A variety of resources are available within school, including the "Health for Life" programme. The PSHE coordinator is responsible for maintaining resources and for monitoring their use.

Procedures for dealing with a drug related incident

Where an incident occurs, the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support from the head teacher or deputy head teacher. Should these be unavailable, a member of the Senior Management Team must be called.
- Administer first aid if necessary
- Ensure that if an illegal drug is found, it is secured in a safe place until it can be dealt with. This procedure would also apply to syringes or needles found on school grounds.
- Report the incident which should be logged in an incident book kept by the head teacher who will then report the incident to the governing body. Records will show the name of the child, how the discovery was made and the date and time of the incident along with, where relevant, the Police Incident number.

Staff should be cautious about discharging a child to the care of an intoxicated parent/ carer, especially if the parent/ carer intends driving the child home. Advice/ support should be sought as necessary from the head teacher and, as named Child Protection Officer, any incidents must be reported to her.

The school, including its grounds, will be regularly checked for signs of drug misuse. This will be the responsibility of the Site Manager and of the Health and safety officer.

Confidentiality

While every effort should be made to enable constructive dialogue to take place between a child requiring support and school staff, no staff member can agree to offer complete confidentiality. All staff are subject to child protection procedures.

Policy Review and Evaluation

This policy will be subject to regular review in consultation with all staff, parents and governors on an annual basis.