



## Bungay Primary School

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE Policy



### Introduction

Drug and drug education in the context of this document are inclusive terms including tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, medicines and other substances such as solvents. To teach drug education a teacher does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach which is crucial to this area of learning. Although at Bungay Primary School there has been no experience of substance or drug misuse, the staff and Governors are committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being and as such recognise that pupils may be exposed to risks in the drug using society in which they are growing up.

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug and substance misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person. The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues.

The policy forms an integral part of our existing health education and personal and social education programmes. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward. The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

### **Aims**

The aim of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices.

### **Objectives**

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the danger of drug misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To minimise the number of young people who engage in drug misuse.
- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.
- To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle.
- To enhance later parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when pupils reach adulthood. Context
- Drug education should be provided in the broader context of the teaching of PSHE as part of a pupil's life skills and preparation for adulthood.
- It should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest.
- It should be delivered in the context of the school as part of the community.
- It should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.
- It should aim to teach pupils the necessary social and personal skills, as described above. These objectives are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum and the informal curriculum. Through the curriculum this is taught mainly through PSHE, Science and RE, but other opportunities to

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reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum such as through Circle Time. The school actively co-operates with the local authority and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling. In Key Stage 2, pupils will learn that:

- Alcohol is the most widely used drug and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking.
- The dangers of smoking and habit forming, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks.
- The dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers. Confidentiality Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, it should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of Senior Leadership Team. It is essential for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:
  - Child protection
  - Co-operating with a police investigation
  - Referral to external services.
  - Every effort will be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. It may be necessary to invoke local child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat.

## Drugs at school

Where children have medical needs:

- Parents and carers must give us details of the child's condition and medication.
- Parents and carers will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container.
- Records will be kept of all medication received and given.
- Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in main reception.
- Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Aerosols, glues (other than PVA) and board cleaning fluids are to be used sparingly in school, and must be handled and stored carefully by all members of staff.
- Legal drugs are only in school only when authorised by the Headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school premises or grounds.
- Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand.
- To sell alcohol at any function, we must be licensed under the current licensing act. Bringing Drugs onto the school site Drugs, including alcohol, should not be brought onto the school site for personal use. Alcohol may be brought onto the site only as part of an organised event for which there is appropriate authority and license - if required.

## Dealing with incidents

Any drug related incident in school should be reported initially to the Headteacher who will decide if police involvement is necessary. An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs. The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services. Parents or carers will be informed with an explanation of how the school intends to respond to the incident. The Site Supervisor ensures that the grounds are kept clear of any dangerous

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substances / objects. He checks the grounds regularly and ensures that they are safe Police will always be involved in the event of an incident with illegal drugs.

## THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND CARERS

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- Inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy;
- invite parents and carers to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- Answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;

School staff will not discharge a pupil to the care of a parent/carer who appears to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol. SDL/alternate,/Customer First will be informed and an alternative arrangement sought. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety.

Where such behaviour repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will report the matter to the Headteacher/SDL, who will consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police Staff taking medicine/ other substances

Staff in school must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which may affect their ability to care for children. If any staff member is taking medication they should seek medical advice and inform the Headteacher of any incapacity they may have to carry out their role effectively. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure that those practitioners only work directly with children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's ability to safeguard children properly. Staff medication on the premises must be securely stored, and out of reach of children at all times.

**Staff will sign a disclaimer to confirm that they are not taking any medication which may impair their ability to safeguard children**