

Rudgwick Primary School Drug Education Policy - February 2010

1. Introduction

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs not only endangers 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 well-being. Drug 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. 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.

2. Rationale

Rudgwick Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole child' that encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

3. Drugs Education in context

Within the programme, pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

4. The Range of Substances

'A drug is a substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- *alcohol and tobacco*
- *'over the counter' medicines such as paracetamol for headaches*
- *prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquillisers*
- *volatile substances such as glues and aerosols*
- *illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy*

5. The Place of Drugs Education in the Curriculum

Drugs education should not be seen as a one off topic but as a continuous process that involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not just the individual, but also the family, their peer groups and the wider community.

At Key Stages 1 and 2, the statutory curriculum for pupils includes the cross-curricular theme of Health Education. This theme provides opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances, and their effects on health and lifestyle.

6. The Aims and Objectives of the Drugs Education Programme

The school's drug education programme is grounded in the following aims and objectives:

AIMS:

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect
- To build pupils' self esteem
- To develop decision making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals

OBJECTIVES:

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with the challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure
- Develop self-discipline
- Understand what is meant by a 'drug' and the definition of 'addiction'
- Understand how some drugs affect the body
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles

7. The Delivery and Organisation of the Drugs Education Programme.

Drugs education is a whole staff issue. Rudgwick Primary School may use outside agencies to help deliver the programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head Teacher has given approval for the use of an outside agency
- CRB disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education.

8. Monitoring and Evaluating

The school drug education policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances and trends. The programmes of study for drug education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

The induction of new staff will include introduction to this policy.

The policy is available to parents if they request it.