

## **Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy Stanford in the Vale CE School**

### **Aims of the School:**

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products exist. We recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential for harm. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of key addictive substances and their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

### **Aims of the Policy:**

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff.
- To link drug, alcohol and tobacco education to other policies in force in school.
- To bring clarity and consistency to the way all staff approach the subject of drugs.
- To provide effective management of any drugs on the school premises.
- To give appropriate attention to all drugs: legal drugs, medicines, solvents, socially disapproved drugs and illegal drugs.
- To give appropriate attention to all alcohol and tobacco products.
- To set down the basis for a planned drug, alcohol and tobacco education programme in accordance with OCC and national guidance

The policy has been written with careful reference to national guidelines, OCC guidance and relevant research. It will be reviewed on a regular basis. The review will take into account the usefulness and effectiveness of the policy using comments and observations from personnel within the school. All teaching staff will receive a copy.

### **Definition of a Drug:**

A drug is a substance that people take to change the way they feel, think or behave (DfES 2004). This definition includes alcohol, tobacco, solvents, prescriptions and over the counter medicines.

**Parents:**

The wishes of the parents are considered carefully; we try to ensure parents are aware of how we deal with these issues. Parents are welcome to come to the school to talk about any concerns or questions they have.

**Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education:**

We aim to bring about understanding about key drugs, alcohol and tobacco with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. We aim to build their self-confidence, their social skills and their belief in the significance of their own role in preserving their health and welfare. We also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make informed decisions.

Drug, alcohol and tobacco education is a planned and integral element of PSHE and is an entitlement of every pupil at the appropriate level. Teaching resources are chosen for their appropriate content. As a school we use Health for Life as a basis for our teaching, although there is flexibility within the curriculum to adapt the Scheme of Work (SOW) to address issues that may arise within each class.

**All pupils need to:**

- Acquire and practice appropriate skills.
- Consider and explore the attitudes and values they hold as well as those held by others.
- Consider the social, health and legal issues raised by the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
- Build the confidence and support to be able to cope with situations where drugs, alcohol and tobacco are on offer.
- Know what drugs, alcohol and tobacco are, their uses and effects.
- Believe in their own mortality.
- Develop sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to preserve their own safety.
- Know the boundaries set by parents, school and law.
- Know where and how they can get help.

**Outside Speakers**

We have good links with the school nurse who is able to offer support to teaching staff and come into school if needed. We also have links with local police.

**Actions to be taken:**

Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters/ sniffable products or any illegal drugs at any time. Any found will be confiscated and only returned to parents or the police.

Medicines must be in the care of adults or managed by the child with agreed teacher supervision. Parents must fill in details of any medicines that are to be administered in school and this must be signed by the adult responsible for administering the medicine. A record must be kept to log the name of medicine and the time and date given. A record must also be kept of any reactions that may occur due to taking the medicine. Inhalers and Epi-pen are stored safely within the classroom with a list of children who need these medicines. Training is given by the school nurse as required to ensure procedures are up-to-date.

If any pupil is thought to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required. Teachers will make routine enquiries to try and find out what substance is involved, its source and whether other pupils are involved. The priority will be pupils' safety. Most staff are named first-aiders.

If any pupil or adult on the school premises is found in possession of an illegal substance, the police will be informed at once. Any teacher or other adult in the school must be aware that if they confiscate the substance or hold on to it, then they will be in possession themselves - great care must be taken to have two adults present. Parents will normally be informed and any other outside professionals such as the GP or school nurse. The Senior Leadership Team will try and determine the source of the substance and the involvement of any other pupils. Careful records will be kept.

The range of sanctions used for rule breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions, and will depend on the nature and the gravity of the offence. Pupil exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with DfES guidance/OCC guidance.

**Education and Management:**

- We ensure that the children know the school rule that all drugs and medicines need to be managed at school by adults; this links with our health and safety / first aid policy.
- We deal with the subject of drugs, alcohol and tobacco through a planned programme and also in response to opportunities as they arise in the

classroom. We revisit issues as the pupils' awareness, readiness and experience grow with time, to build on previous learning.

- We try and balance written work with active learning methods to ensure pupil participation in all PSHE. Methods and teaching strategies that we use are drama, discussion and small group work.
- Our pupils are helped to understand clearly that decisions about behaviour may lead to certain consequences.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Clare Webb

PHSE Co-ordinator

Reviewed: November 2016

Next Review: November 2018