



DRUG AND SUBSTANCE MIS-USE GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

At Dulwich Village C of E Infants' School, we want all children to **“Flourish with God in life, learning and love”** and we want to see this strength and development in their choices both at home and at school.

To ensure children flourish with God in all aspects of their life, we want to see children growing up to make wise decisions about their life and health. At DVIS we incorporate the teaching of making informed choices about medicines and healthy lifestyles within the PSHE curriculum and across all curriculum areas.

This guidance sits alongside the Safeguarding Policy, Medical Policy, PSHE guidance and PE Guidance.

In 2012 the DfE updated its' guidance for schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance and is in accordance with the Healthy Schools Programme and Guidance from the LA.

Aims of this school guidance:

- to clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors.
- to outline the school's approach to drugs education.
- to safeguard the children and uphold the schools vision.
- to manage drug related incidences safely and with care.

What is a drug?

A drug is a medicine or other substance, which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body.

Child friendly definition: a drug is a substance which when taken into the body by mouth, nose, or by skin or eye drops will change the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works.

The presence of illegal drugs at Dulwich Village C of E Infants;' School is forbidden.

The Headteacher, with the support of the Governors will:

- ensure that all are aware of this guidance,
- that any drug related incident is dealt with in a timely manner in accordance with school policies,
- liaise with external agencies that might support this aspect of the children's education,
- monitor the delivery of the curriculum to ensure drug and substance mis-use education is part of the learning experiences at DVIS.

Why teach the children about drugs?

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge attitudes and understanding about drugs and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating to their actions and those of others.

At DVIS the learning experiences through the PSHE and PE curriculum, alongside other curriculum areas should:

- Teach pupils how to be safe when using medicines and household substances.
- Build on their current knowledge, understanding and experiences.
- Teach children the basic skills for making healthy choices and following the safety rules and laws.
- Teach pupils to understand that all medicines and drugs can harm if not administered according to the instructions from the doctor, nurse, pharmacist or dentist.

- Teach pupils that a prescription is for the person to whom it was prescribed. Medicines must not be shared.

Drugs Education

At DVIS drugs education is a whole school issue, and opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum but especially in Science, PSHE, RE and PE. This will be the experience for children in Key Stage 1. Teaching will be led by the class teacher but may also incorporate visits from health care professionals or external agencies where appropriate.

Teaching about drugs begins in the Early Years when pupils are taught about seeing the Doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling and storage. This will be taught through annual topics, role play corner themes, visits from adults such as parents talking about their jobs and roles.

We recognise that some children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities may need a tailored approach to drug education and the teacher will ensure their lesson plans reflect these needs.

Drugs at School

Where children have medical needs, parents must inform the school and fill out the required permission forms and plans. Please see Medical School Policy.

Medicines are held in the First Aid rooms (or classrooms if deemed necessary). Medicines stored in fridges have child locks attached.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school property.

Staff in need of regular medication must declare this to the Headteacher and this must be stored safely and securely in a locked cupboard.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals are stored securely to avoid inappropriate access by pupils.

Drugs Incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school (such as volatile substances or illegal drugs) must be reported to a member of the Leadership team. If an emergency service is required call 999 immediately.

Any drugs suspected of being illegal will be confiscated, stored in a plastic bag with time and date on and stored securely. The police will be notified. Any safeguarding concerns following this will be followed in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy for the school.

The Role of Parents

At Dulwich Village C of E Infants', we work closely with parents as the primary role of drugs education lies with the parents or carers at home. We aim to work collaboratively and in a supportive manner in order to ensure the best outcomes for the children. The school will disseminate any useful information regarding educating children about drugs when this is available.

Staff will be very cautious about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent or carer if they appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The child's welfare is paramount. If there is concern that the child is at risk of harm, safeguarding procedures will be followed.

To be reviewed November 2024.