

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

- The Government paper 'Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain' (1995) sets out a specific strategy to tackle drugs misuse. Clearly the Government believes that schools have a major part to play in the educating of young people about the effects of drugs use and misuse. At Newark Orchard School we uphold this philosophy and strive to help 'young people to resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society' (HMSO, 1998).
- The school does not condone the misuse of drugs including alcohol and tobacco by any member of the school. The school does not accept the illegal supply of any prescribed or non prescribed drug.
- The school takes a pro-active stance and believes that Drug Education is a vital part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship Education of every pupil. School are cognisant of the expectations signalled in "Every Child Matters".
- Newark Orchard School upholds the 1996 Education Act in its aim to provide a balanced curriculum which:-

...promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils...

...prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Education Act (1996)

- The safety of the pupils, staff and school community is paramount.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people. Through the pastoral system, general ethos of the school and with the support of a formal PSHE, and Citizenship syllabus we would hope that pupils in need of support would come forward.
- This policy encompasses all illicit drugs, volatile substances (solvents), over the counter and prescribed medicines, magic mushrooms, alcohol, tobacco, and other legal drugs i.e. caffeine, khat, alkyl nitrates (Healthy Schools, 2004). We also uphold the definitions of drugs defined by the 2004 U&S Policy and support the stance taken with regard to these drugs by this documentation.
- This policy will also apply to any new trends involving different drug and substance use, which have the potential to cause harm to staff and pupils at Newark Orchard School (adapted from Healthy Schools, 2004).
- This policy will be made available to all teachers and class teams. A reference copy can be found in both school offices and in the Governor's Policy File. The briefing paper "Children and Young People - Substance Use Policy" from the LA will be held by the Senior Teacher's responsible for 3 -14 and 14 -19.

THE NATURE AND PHILOSOPHY OF DRUGS EDUCATION

- The school aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices. This will be done by increasing knowledge, promoting positive attitudes, challenging harmful thoughts and behaviour, and developing and practising relevant skills to promote health.
- Staff will work to develop:-

...pupils confidence and skills to manage situations which require making decisions about drugs. This may include developing competence to manage medicines responsibly, staying safe and understanding and managing feelings. Teachers will pay particular attention to enabling pupils to seek help and support when it is needed.

(DfES 2004)

- The school recognises that at times there could be a need to concentrate on '...issues relating to specific drugs' (DfES 2004) and that this may be due to '...an incident in school, local intelligence, increased media attention, or pupil interest' (DfES 2004). Newark Orchard School will follow the guidance of the DfES 2004 and not consider these issues in 'isolation but integrated within an overall programme'. The aim will be ongoing review and responsiveness.
- Newark Orchard School will aim to enhance pupils self esteem in order to give them confidence to resist the temptations of drugs that are not prescribed for them. This will be supported by a whole school ethos, positive role modelling, the reward system and the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum.
- We aim to enable the pupils to understand the differences that exist between prescribed and non prescribed drugs. Pupils will be given formal training relating to the issues surrounding prescribed and non prescribed drugs.
- The school aims to enable pupils to recognise the problems associated with the abuse of non prescribed substances including tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Pupils will be given the opportunity to discover these issues during PSHE and Citizenship lessons.
- The school acknowledges the principle of sharing responsibility with parents. Newark Orchard School aims to keep parents involved in all aspects of education and policy relating to drugs education. Opportunities for awareness raising and training programmes to be considered.
- The school aims to provide staff with up to date training regarding drugs education. This should then support them in the delivery of the curriculum and the handling of any drug related incident.
- The school aims to ensure that all staff are aware of the guidelines for dealing with incidents relating to drugs use and abuse. The school will follow guidelines set out in the LA "Children and Young People - Substance Use Policy" - "A Policy for U & S" (2004).
- Newark Orchard School will constantly seek to review and evaluate content and progress in this area of the curriculum. In this way we will hope to ensure that teaching will

continue to be effective in the development of pupil's knowledge, understanding and skills.

- As a school we recognise the priorities of whole-school policies and practice that are consistent with the aims of our Drugs Education Programme. We have Smoking and Alcohol policies in support of this Drugs Policy. These policies support the U&S documentation (2004).
- The school will continue to co-operate with other agencies such as Health Education personnel, Police, Connexions advisors and other professionals that may be involved in the support of this policy and the formal drugs education Curriculum. We believe it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the contributions made by visitors reflect our own philosophy and approach. The content of visitors' contributions will be carefully negotiated and a teacher or teaching assistant will always be present during their input (unless a previously agreed individual interview)

PRINCIPLES OF ENTITLEMENT

Operational Principles:-

1) Prescribed Drugs Use

- To provide on-going training for staff given responsibility in all aspects of administration of prescribed medication including safe storage, handling, recording and disposal. (See "Medicines in Schools Guidelines" DfES/DH March 2005)
- To ensure that individual pupils have the opportunity to understand aspects of their medical conditions that require regular medication. This to be delivered by trained Health Trust personnel.
- At Newark Orchard School we aim to support parents in preparing pupils for adult life. We believe that the key to this is to encourage pupils to seek assistance to use prescribed drugs. At Newark Orchard School pupils will not be allowed to take prescribed drugs unsupervised.
- At Newark Orchard School our aim is for prescribed medication to be handed over and delivered to the Named First Aider, on duty, in accordance with the school Drugs Handling Policy. See also U & S documentation (2004).

2) Misuse - Procedure for Specific Incidents

- In response to an emergency situation (suspected drug misuse of any nature) staff will deal with specific instances in a calm, ordered and professional manner within the framework set out by the U&S Policy. They will:-
 - 1) Seek to minimise the risk that drug users and potential users face.
 - 2) Inform the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher as soon as appropriate. If the Head and Deputy are out of school the acting Senior Management Leader should be informed. Staff member dealing with the incident should also seek support from a reliable adult witness at the earliest opportunity.
 - 3) Take appropriate action necessary to ensure the safe and smooth running of the school community.

- 4) If staff suspects an illegal substance the U&S Policy procedure should be followed.
 - 5) Ensure that a form of help/action is undertaken which will appropriately support any young people and staff involved in an incident.
 - 6) Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.
 - 7) The incident will be fully recorded and witnessed by the Head Teacher/Deputy Head and the witness, noted in (2).
 - 8) Drugs related incidents may spark media interest. Members of staff will be advised not to respond to media questions but to refer journalists to the Head Teacher or Press Officer, County Hall.
 - 9) Further information and links to agencies that can offer support can be obtained from www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/youandyourcommunity/staysafe.htm
- *In response to reports of repeated drug misuse (outside of school) by a parent, carer etc, it will be directed to the Deputy Head at the earliest opportunity who will make the referral to an appropriate agency - EHAF (Early Help Assessment Form), CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service), MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub).*

The school will maintain a close working relationship with the students and parents/carers and offer support throughout this process.

DRUGS CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENT

- As indicated in the school PSHE Policy document:-

'The PSHEsyllabus should lead all pupils towards achieving an independent, satisfying and well adjusted adult life'.
- Drugs education is viewed as an integral part of the PSHE curriculum. All pupils have the right, whatever their ability to access drugs education. It is for this reason that teachers at Newark Orchard School strive to help all students understand issues surrounding prescribed and non-prescribed drugs.
- Teaching methods adopted in the classroom offer a variety of methods and a number of opportunities for active learning and include; discussion groups, debating and role play. Due to the sensitive and possibly controversial nature of this subject ground rules will be negotiated and adopted and pupils' ability and level of knowledge thought about prior to the lesson to ensure appropriateness of context (adapted from Healthy Schools Initiative, 2000 and DfES 2004).

IMPLEMENTATION

- It is the intention of the school to have an annual Drug Awareness Week in the summer term (from 2012), based on the Drug Aware Programme which runs throughout Nottinghamshire. This will also incorporate the Healthy Schools & DfES guidelines (www.nottinghamdrugaware.co.uk).
- The Drugs Education programme is delivered as a central part of the PSHE and Citizenship syllabus at Newark Orchard School.

- We support the DfES (2004) *Guidance for Schools* which states that Drugs Education should be 'delivered through a well-planned PSHE and Citizenship syllabus'. Our curriculum is in line with the non-statutory framework for PSHE and the statutory Citizenship programme. This is also complemented by the statutory requirements within the national curriculum Science order.
- In addition to the formal drugs curriculum other topic areas written into the PSHE curriculum reinforce and support Drugs Education. Pupils learn about a healthy lifestyle and develop confidence and self esteem to help defend their health.
- The school's statutory Citizenship syllabus also strives to give pupils opportunities to discuss and understand drugs. Through this curriculum pupils study rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities. They consider various points of view, explore social, cultural and moral issues and finally gives pupils the chance to debate topical issues (supported by DfES 2004).
- The PSHE and Citizenship programmes of study for Drugs Education are produced in line with the DfES guidelines. Subject teachers produce lessons plans relating to the guidelines produced by the subject coordinator.
- The drugs education syllabus is also supported by a whole school ethos (PSHE hidden curriculum) and other curriculum areas most notably Science.
- We uphold the drugs curriculum as promoted by the Healthy Schools Initiative (2004). Through the curriculum and supporting school ethos we aim to:
 - 1) Provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs
 - 2) Understand that certain people with particular medical needs will use medication as part of their everyday life.
 - 3) Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drugs use and misuse, explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions
 - 4) Raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs
 - 5) Explore and clarify attitudes towards drugs, drug use and misuse and drug users, correcting misunderstanding, promoting positive attitudes and challenging harmful ones
 - 6) Develop pupils understanding of school rules and codes of conduct
 - 7) Develop pupils self-awareness and self-esteem as this may support them in making positive choices
 - 8) Ensure that all member of the school community can identify sources of appropriate personal support
 - 9) Ensure relevance for the needs of pupils and the school community.

(Healthy Schools Initiative 2004)

- At present we are involved in the 'Healthy Schools Initiative'. One area of study is Drugs Education. Resources and guidance in this area are available within school. We plan to work with this initiative and other agencies to ensure that information and resources relating to Drugs Education at Newark Orchard School are kept up to date.
- The policy is in line with the school rules and applies not only within school boundaries but on all school visits, trips and residentials, including those made out of school hours. It is also upheld on school buses and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate (Healthy Schools Initiative 2000).
- We acknowledge that some of our pupils require daily administration of prescribed drugs for their ongoing medical conditions. The administration and care of these drugs will be in accordance with the U & S documentation (2004), the school Health and Safety Policy and advice held within "Managing medication in schools" (2005).
- The writing and reviewing of this policy is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team. However this policy has and will always be reviewed by other members of staff, representatives of the governing body, the school nurse, parents and other significant members of the school community. This policy has been written in line with the County, DfES and Healthy Schools guidelines.
- The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Head teacher. The Head teacher is also responsible for staff training and the management of incidents relating to drugs policy.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

This policy was written with reference to the following documents:-

- 1) Drugs Guidance for Schools, DfES, Feb. 2004
- 2) Protecting Young People - Good Practice in Drug Education in Schools and the Youth Service, DfEE, 1998
- 3) Children and Young People - Substance Use Policy, Notts. Partnership Policy, 2004 (U&S Policy)
- 4) Draft Drugs Policy Template - Healthy Schools Initiative 2004
- 5) Tackling Drugs Changing Lives, Every Child Matters: Change for Children - DfES (2005)
- 6) Managing Medicines in School - DfES (2005)
- 7) www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk (staysafe).

This Drugs Education Policy will pay due regard to the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Act (2001) and the Race Relations Act (2002) as appropriate.

