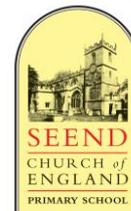


# Seend C. of E. Primary School

## Drugs Education Policy



Seend Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School will provide a happy, caring, family environment **where children feel inspired**. We know that every child matters – whatever their skills and abilities, whatever their background and whatever their aspirations. Belonging to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values, children will develop an array of skills that will equip them to meet the challenges of our ever changing world and to make their own positive contribution to our global society.

Seend Primary School aims to equip its pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle.

### Rationale

- ◆ To protect all staff and pupils.
- ◆ To give clear indication as to the school's view about drugs.
- ◆ To determine how the staff respond and deal with drug incidents..
- ◆ To follow national guidance as given by DfES.

### What are we aiming to do?

- ◆ To maintain the safety and welfare of all pupils
- ◆ To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- ◆ To support the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.

### Drug Education Content and Organisation

The important themes that underlie the teaching in this area are:

- ◆ The value of having a healthy body
- ◆ All medicines are drugs BUT not all drugs are medicines
- ◆ That tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects (including addiction)
- ◆ The ability to resist negative peer pressure

Drugs awareness is an important part of personal, social, health and citizenship education. We teach children about their bodies and how to care for them, giving them both information and skills that will be useful as they grow up.

We aim, as far as we are able, to build in each child confidence and a positive self-image. If children value themselves they can reasonably be expected to care for themselves, making sensible decisions about behaviour that may affect their health and well-being.

This starts with the early years curriculum which is cross curricular in nature and divides into areas which relate to those used at Key Stages 1 and 2. As part of their work on personal and social education the children take part in a topic entitled "Ourselves".

Within the section entitled "Humans as Organisms" the national curriculum for science identifies several issues pertinent to drugs awareness, namely "the role of drugs as

medicines” (Key Stage 1) and “tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects” (Key Stage 2). Therefore we teach about drugs in the context of a study of the human body – we develop children’s scientific understanding and, alongside this, consider broader issues about behaviour and responsibility. The scheme of work addresses these themes every second year, so children can build on their existing knowledge as they progress through the school.

When considering the personal and social aspects of drugs awareness, teaching methods that encourage discussion and participation are particularly effective. They are used to consider issues such as; being safe, peer pressure, being able to say no, risk and personal responsibility.

What is appropriate varies with the age of the children. As children reach the upper junior years some of the more complex issues need to be discussed more explicitly for them to have any value.

Many discussions are in the form of whole class circle times (an opportunity for children to talk and listen in a structured environment). Other discussions are an integral part of class activities designed to teach specific points. These are based around stories, dramatized episodes or other teaching resources. The use of fiction allows children to experience and reflect upon events at secondhand in a safe and structured way.

Children are taught by their class teacher for drugs awareness. Other health professionals may be invited to school to augment the work of the teacher in the classroom or to offer advice. We are always careful to negotiate the role of all visitors so that their contributions fit our needs and they are clear about the school’s approach to drugs awareness education. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Resources are chosen carefully to support our stated values and aims. The Life Education Bus is used whenever possible to supplement our own resources!

### **Parental Involvement**

We know that many parents value the school’s inclusion of drugs awareness in the curriculum, not least because it allows discussion to arise at home too. A curriculum overview received at the beginning of each term, informs parents that drugs awareness is to be taught within the coming few weeks.

The School building is a no-smoking area. We ask that parents do not smoke around the building as well.

### **Drugs on School Premises**

#### **Medicines**

See Administration of medicines policy and H&S policy

#### **Alcohol**

Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except for the following reasons: social functions, prizes at P.T.A. functions.

Parents or visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later time for the safety of the whole school.

## **Smoking**

We ask that parents, contractors or visitors to the site do not smoke in or around the building.

Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters, or alcohol or solvents. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Parents will be expected to collect the materials personally.

## **Illegal Drugs**

All illegal drugs are forbidden on the school premises.

## **Solvents**

The headteacher is responsible for the ordering of products to ensure that they are solvent free. Children should never come into contact with solvents at school. The cleaner's store of cleaning fluids should be kept under lock and key.

## **Drug Related Incidents**

When dealing with any incident the school will take account of the advice in the DfES's circulars.

An incident may include one of the following:

- ◆ Rumours of parents or pupils using drugs
- ◆ Reports of parents or pupils using drugs
- ◆ Use of drugs on school premises and visits
- ◆ Pupils bringing drugs into school
- ◆ Drug dealing on school premises and in the vicinity
- ◆ Finding drugs/paraphernalia on school premises
- ◆ Pupils disclosing about their drug use

The following key points are considered when planning a course of action:

The management of the incident will be co-ordinated by the school drugs co-ordinator and the headteacher will be informed (if this is not the same person).

The headteacher will usually inform the police when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on the premises, although there is no legal obligation to do this. The headteacher, with the advice from the LEA press office and legal department will handle any media involvement. The LEA is informed as soon as possible.

All drugs incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Any substances or paraphernalia will be handled and disposed of safely with due respect to the law.

The situation will be assessed and parents/carers informed as appropriate.

Appropriate support will be provided – agreeing a pastoral support programme, access to counselling, taking disciplinary action involving external agencies as appropriate i.e. police, social services.

### **Support for Pupils**

The welfare of the pupil is paramount. With this proviso in mind, we maintain that constructive strategies that help pupils reinvest in their own education are preferable to exclusion. The school is required, for monitoring purposes, to inform governors and the LEA of any drug related exclusion.

Regarding disclosures by pupils, staff need to consider very carefully before they promise complete confidentiality.

**The co-ordinator** will keep up to date with drugs education information and organise training for staff when appropriate. She will also manage resources and organise outside support.

May 2017

Review date May 2019