



BASSENTHWAITE PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRUG POLICY

This policy has been developed with close reference to 'Drugs - Guidance for Schools' published by the then Department for Education and Skills (DfES), February 2004 Ref: DfES/0092/2004.

In the first instance the current government policy guidance will be the prime source of information relating to drugs policy and procedure within the school.

Once approved by the Board of Governors a copy of the policy will be retained in the school office. Policy will normally be reviewed every two years. A drug incident or change in local circumstances may also prompt a review. The date of the next major review will be two years from the date of ratification by the Board of Governors.

The purpose of the policy

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme



- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

Policy Application

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parent/carers, governors and partner agencies working with schools.

The school sends a clear message to the whole school community that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs (as designated by the headteacher) within school boundaries is unacceptable.

The purpose of this policy is to provide agreed responses and procedures for managing the broad range of potential situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

School Boundaries

The policy will apply not only to the school premises and perimeters but will also include situations that extend beyond that physical boundary e.g. journeys in school time and school trips (residential and non-residential).

The duty of care includes the whole school day and activities within school premises where its 'duty of care' responsibilities apply.



Definitions and terminology

The definition of drugs will include reference to medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- Any illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drug, including alcohol tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Dealing with medical emergencies involving drugs

In every case of an incident involving drugs, the school will place the utmost priority on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If those involved are in doubt, they should seek medical assistance immediately.

Staff with key responsibility for drugs

Specific members of staff will oversee and co-ordinate drugs issues falling within the remit of this policy.

Any drug/substance related matter will be referred as soon as practicable to the Head Teacher (Sara Royle). It will be the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure the matter is dealt with according to current policy. In addition, the Head Teacher will inform the appropriate School Governor (Margaret Taylor - Chair) as soon as practicable. They will liaise with the relevant authorities and report to the School Governors actions taken to resolve the incident.



Management responsibilities

The Head Teacher is responsible for the management of drug related issues and will ensure that:

- All staff are made aware of the current policy
- Copies of the current policy are readily available to staff
- Full proportionate liaison occurs with the Police in respect of any incident.

Drug education

A separate Drug Education Awareness Policy has been agreed and is attached at Appendix A.

Management of drugs at school

Any person attending school on business as a visitor will be included in this policy. Events taking place after school but on school premises will also be deemed reportable under this policy.

Police involvement

Police will be informed by the Head Teacher when an incident suspected of relating to drugs takes place on school premises.

The needs of pupils

The needs of pupils are addressed with the Drug Awareness Policy (Appendix A).



Referral and external support

The Head Teacher will refer to Social Care any pupil who requires support relating to a drug incident.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality will be maintained as required for any enquiry or legal proceedings.

Involvement of parents/carers

Involvement of parents/carers will be referred to Social Care for appropriate action.

The role of the Governors

The Head Teacher has the authority to exclude any person from school premises. Any appeal on such exclusion will be heard by the School Governors.



Bassenthwaite Primary School - Drug Education Policy - Appendix A

There is concern amongst many about the misuse of drugs in society. Research has proven that the average age of drug misuse is falling and that primary school children are becoming increasingly aware of illegal drugs and the misuse of these and other drugs. We therefore believe that drug education is essential to ensure understanding and enable children to make sensible, informed choices throughout their lives.

Primarily drug education is linked with health education but it also permeates other areas such as child protection, P.S.H.E and science. It is because it is common to other areas that it has been decided to address drug education in a policy of its own.

Aims and objectives.

Due to the changes in society the need has now been created for our school to have a greater sense of drug awareness. The aims of this policy are to address the need for a greater awareness of drugs and to provide children with sufficient knowledge and understanding to make healthy decisions within given situations.

Definition of term 'drugs'

A drug is any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates change in perception and/or in mood and/or in how the body functions. The drugs included in this policy are:

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, ecstasy, heroin
- Over-the counter medicines e.g. cough mixtures, paracetamol
- Prescription medicines e.g. tranquillisers
- Tobacco
- Volatile substances that are sniffed e.g. petrol, butane, aerosols, glue

The curriculum

Drug education is a cross-curricular area that should be taught within other subject areas as they naturally arise within each half term.

Foundation Stage

(The objectives for the foundation stage are addressed through the Early Learning Goals)

Pupils should: -

- 1) know that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances.

Key Stage One

Drugs education in key stages one and two forms part of the P.S.H.E schemes of work.

Pupils should know/learn; -

- 1) that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) about the role of drugs as medicine
- 3) that all substance can be harmful if not used properly
- 4) that there are different types of medicine and that some people need them to live a normal life
- 5) and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances

Key Stage Two

Pupils should be taught; -



- 1) that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- 2) which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks
- 3) about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how they relate to their personal health
- 4) to recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly
- 5) that pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, and how to ask for help and basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong
- 6) the important and beneficial part which drugs have played in society

Assessment

The elements of drug education that form part of the science curriculum must be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. The learning from the other elements of drug education should also be assessed as part of overall PSHE provision.

Assessment should identify knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes gained and developed. It should include formative, summative, teacher, pupil and peer assessment.

The PSHE Co-ordinator has overall responsibility for monitoring Drugs education within the school with feedback from Key Stage Co-ordinators, senior staff and teaching staff. The 'Drug Education Policy' will be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the schools policy audit and action plans.

Teaching approaches/liaison with outside agencies

Wherever drug education is located in the curriculum it should be explicitly planned as part of a cohesive and progressive programme. It is important that drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Drugs education needs to be taught in the same ways as other curriculum subjects, through discussion, role-play, group and class work, using appropriate ICT and outside agencies.

The co-ordinators will work cooperatively with other agencies such as the police, social services, school nurse etc as required. Where possible outside agencies will be asked to support the drug education curriculum, e.g. Life Bus.

Information to parents

The school operates an 'open door' policy for parents and actively seeks to work with them and support them. Details of the drugs policy, procedures and the names of co-ordinators are available upon request.

Role of the co-ordinators

(The Drug education co-ordinator is Sara Royle)

- To ensure all staff have appropriate schemes of work to include in their planning and that these schemes are updated when necessary.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and school procedures when dealing with drug related incidents
- To liaise with social services, police, school nurse and other agencies as appropriate.
- To organise INSET to ensure teachers have the appropriate level of awareness to enable them to deliver the curriculum appropriately.
- To ensure own knowledge is updated when needed and that this information is disseminated to staff.
- To keep detailed records of any drug related incidents.

Procedures for drugs related incidents

- If a pupil is found in possession of cigarettes, alcohol or an illegal substance they will have this removed from them and the parents will be invited into school to discuss the matter.



- If the substance is notifiable or unknown, it will be removed from the owner, locked in a secure place (the safe) and the police informed.
- If it is found that a child is using drugs, the parents are informed. The child may be in need of medical attention and the school may seek it if necessary. The head and child protection co-ordinator will be informed and a record made as 'cause for concern'.
- All adults working directly with the child or their siblings will be informed of the situation.
- If any child is found in possession of drugs, using drugs or encouraging the use of drugs in others on the school site, the disciplinary action could result in exclusion.
- In the event of a child involved in repeated incidents, the social services would become involved, the governors involved and permanent exclusion a possibility.
- Pupils and staff welfare is paramount at all times - with this in mind a child receiving injuries as a result of another child being under the influence of drugs will result in exclusion of the latter.
- The head has overall authority and must be kept informed at all times.
- Although confidentiality will be maintained wherever possible, the welfare of staff and pupils is essential. Counselling and support for both the child and his/her parents will be provided through referral to appropriate agencies.

Drugs are increasingly becoming a part of our everyday lives. The use of this policy will hopefully go some way to achieving a greater awareness and understanding of drugs and preventing what they are capable of doing to our children.

Signed *M Taylor*

Date ----23/05/22-----

ReviewMay 2025.....