



Moorlands Primary School

High Expectations, High Achievements, Challenge and Enjoyment for All

POLICY FOR DRUGS EDUCATION

Name of Policy Writer/Amendments	Date Written/Amended	Next Review Date	Approved by Governors	committee
Becky Freeman	July 2016	July 2017	7/7/16	
Becky Freeman	July 2017	July 2019	17/7/17	
Becky Freeman	July 2019	July 2020	12/7/19	
Becky Freeman	June 2020	June 2021	June 2020	S & A
Becky Freeman	June 2021	June 2022	July 2021	S&A
Becky Freeman	June 2022	June 2024	July 2022	

Rationale

We teach drugs education at Moorlands Primary School in order to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. We want our children to become responsible, confident young people and believe that a good drug education programme is key to this. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Aims and Objectives

Through our teaching we aim to:

- Provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives
- Enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas
- Help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives
- Let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs
- Help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse
- Show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices
- Ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff

Teaching and Learning in Drugs Education

- We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum.
- Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur.
- In circle time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and help children be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs.
- In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach the difference between legal and non-legal drugs.
- Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHE) curriculum.

- The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal drugs and the dangers involved to those who take them.
- Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.
- The class teacher leads lessons with, in most cases, support from other agencies, such as the community policeman.
- The teaching style used encourages children to ask questions and reflect on dangers to health of misuse.
- Children have the opportunity to talk in groups or as a whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others.

Inclusion

All children, regardless of ability, will have access to drugs education with work differentiated to an appropriate level.

Health and Safety

Whilst samples may be brought in by the police as examples to aid recognition, these will always be appropriately packaged and will never be handled by the children.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can effectively teach and handle issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Role of Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LA and health organizations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. In promoting this objective, we will: -

- Inform the parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy.