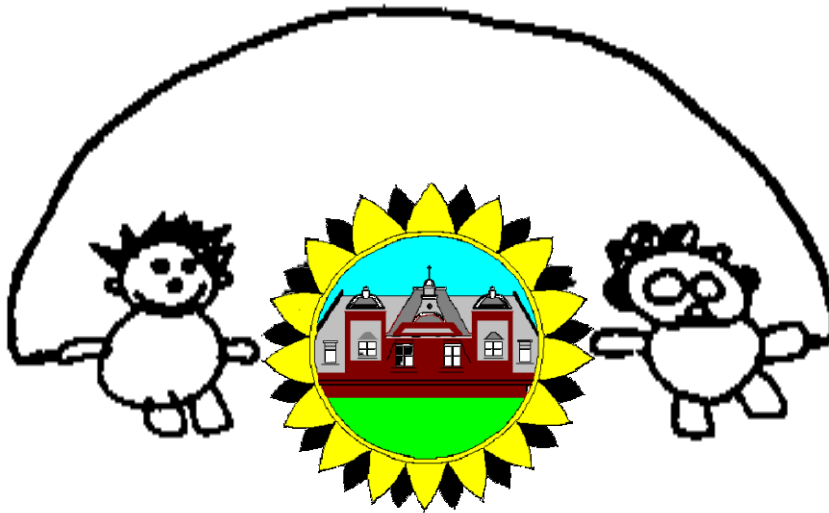


Lakeside Community Primary School



Policy for Drug Education

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. Schools play a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing their confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

The Philosophy of the School

The philosophy of LCPS is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all learners are enabled to develop educationally and personally, and which strives carefully to prepare them for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences which they may encounter in their future lives.

Definition

A drug is any substance that affects the way in which the body functions, physically, emotionally, or mentally. It includes legal substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, and solvents, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, GHB, 'legal highs', Ketamine and alkyl nitrites (poppers).

The aims of this policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance.
- To give appropriate attention to all drugs; legal drugs, medicines, solvents and other socially disapproved drugs and illegal drugs.
- To bring clarity and consistency to the way all staff approach the subject of drugs.
- To bring about confident, effective management of all drugs on school premises.
- To set down the basis for a planned drug education programme in accordance with LA and national guidance.

Lakeside School's Position on Drugs

This policy is intended to ensure all pupils are supported consistently whether on or around school premises and whenever the school is responsible for their welfare. At LCPS we recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but we also regard every drug as representing potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and learners need to understand the nature of drugs they may come into contact with, their social and legal status and their uses and effects. These choices will include decisions about the use of medicines as well as non-medicinal drugs. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. The main emphasis of our work in relation to drugs is the safety of our pupils.

Drug Education

We use drug education to bring about an understanding of the drugs with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. Through drug education we aim to build their self-esteem, their skills and their belief in the significance of their own role in preserving their health and welfare. In addition to building our pupils' competence, we also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make careful decisions.

AT LCPS, drug education is a planned and integral element of PSHE curriculum and is an entitlement of every learner. We recognise that all learners need accurate, up to date, credible drug information.

Drug education at LCPS:

- ✓ Increases pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarifies misconceptions about:
 - The short and long term effects and risks of drugs;
 - The rules and laws relating to drugs;
 - The impact of drugs on individuals;
 - The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers;
 - The complex moral, social, economical and political issues surrounding drugs.

- ✓ Develops pupils personal and social skills in order to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - Communicating effectively
 - Resisting pressures
 - Finding information, help and advice
 - Devising problem solving and coping strategies
 - Developing self-awareness and self-esteem.

- ✓ Enables pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influence.

Drug Education Programme.

Part of the content of Drug Education at LCPS will include the requirements of the National Curriculum Science:

- 'At Key stage 1 pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicine.'
- 'At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.'

Our pupils are helped to understand clearly that particular decisions about behaviour may lead inevitably to certain consequences. This links with our PSHE curriculum.

We try to balance didactic input and written work with active learning methods to ensure pupil participation in all PSHE. The methods we may use include circle time, drama, discussion and small group work.

Drug Education needs to be delivered in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Therefore it is essential that clear ground rules are negotiated with pupils regarding confidentiality, rights to privacy and respect and boundaries. Young people should be actively encouraged to participate in their own learning and to question and think critically.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

Definition

A drug related incident is defined at LCPS as any person on the premises, be it pupil, parent, carer or visitor, who is under the influence or in possession of intoxicating substances. It may also refer to incidents out of school, which directly affect LCPS children and their immediate families.

- LCPS is a no-smoking building at all times.
- Alcohol is only permitted to be drunk by staff and adult visitors to school on social occasions, out of school hours.

Learners are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drugs at any time. Any found will be confiscated and only returned to parents. Parents will be informed as a matter of course.

Medicines

Medicines must be kept in the school office or managed by pupils with staff supervision (eg inhalers). The authorisation and recording forms for these procedures are kept in the school office. Health and medical records are updated by Mrs. W. House and Mrs D Constantinides. Learners needing daily prescribed drugs will have these administered by Mrs D Constantinides (Mrs J Simpson or Miss R Melliush) at lunchtimes.

If any pupil is thought to be under the influence of a drug, medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required. In addition routine enquiries to try to find out what drug is involved, its source and whether any pupils are involved will be undertaken. The priority will be pupils' safety. The following members of staff are qualified in first aid: Mrs. D Constantinides, Mrs. J. Simpson, Mr. D.House, Mr. D.Lawrence, Miss H.Simpson, Mrs L.Knibbs, Miss K.Stoddart, Mr G.Groves, Miss R.Melhuish, Mrs D Simpson, Mr L Austin, Miss E Snowdon, Miss G Neild, Miss Z Travers-Ayre, Mrs L O'Leary, Miss E Blackburn, Miss A Whysall, Mrs D Johnson, Mrs V Swan, Mrs K Hartley, Miss L Sellek, Mr M Sifleet

Possession of Drugs

If any pupil is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated and put in a secure place in Mr. Emsley's office. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, it will be destroyed (in the presence of a witness) or given to the police or drug support service and a careful record kept. Parents will be informed or consulted as appropriate. A careful investigation will be undertaken to try and determine the source of any drug and the involvement of any other pupils. Careful records will always be kept and the drug related incident form completed and returned to the LA at the end of every academic year.

Referral agencies may need to be contacted for example, Educational Welfare Officer, Schools Psychological Service, Child Guidance, Youth Counselling Service, Local drug agency.

The effectiveness of any response to an unplanned drug incident in school will be assessed and procedures reviewed within one week by the Principal and LCPS colleagues. Procedures will be amended as a result if necessary.

The Pupil's needs

The needs of the pupils will be considering following action to preserve safety. This will include offering support through the pastoral system and referral if necessary, to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels that any pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'. Such interventions could include consultation with parents and other agencies, possible case conference and subsequent referral.

Parents and Carers

At LCPS the wishes of parents are considered carefully. We try to ensure parents are aware of how we cover drug education and we provide drug awareness evenings as needs arise. Parents are welcome to come to the school and talk to the head of learning and teaching/ their child's class teacher about any concerns or questions they have.

Parents and carers would be contacted as soon as the school has evidence of involvement of pupils with unauthorised drugs, unless this might compromise the pupil's safety.

There needs to be sensitivity to the possibility that parents/carers may themselves be involved with drug use in a way that raises issues of child protection. On the admission form for LCPS Parents/Carers will be asked if the child has been exposed to alcohol/substance misuse in the family environment so that appropriate support can be given.

L.Knibbs: