



MORGANS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Context

The school defines the term 'drug' as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

Values and Aims

Set in the broader context of PSHE and Citizenship, our drugs education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well being.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation and encourage this through an evening for parents, including input from staff and advice from our school nurse. All illegal drugs on school premises are unacceptable.

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits. The school will also have an interest in the health and well being of the pupils beyond these boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.

Whilst we acknowledge the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is important to recognise that many people are choosing not to do so. We will acknowledge their differing needs.

Rationale

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give the pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future. Whilst health and safety issues relating to medicines will be revisited during a child's education at Morgans, a concentrated Drugs Education topic will form part of the Y6/7 transfer work in the final half term of Year 6.

We aim to:

- Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills
- Help young people to develop a sense of self-awareness and self esteem
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse

- Listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs
- Help young people distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm
- Counter any inaccurate messages which young people receive about drugs
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs)
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- Enable children to identify where support and help can be found
- Be a school that promotes health
- Continue to liaise with local secondary schools to promote good cross-curricular links for this aspect of the curriculum
- Continue to share quality practice with the wider community

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- A coordinated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons
- Reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations
- Content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturity of individual pupils, including those with additional needs and English as an additional language
- Integration of drug education into the curriculum through Q.C.A. units
- Involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents, pupils and relevant visitors
- Training and support for staff in the planning and delivery of drug education
- Regular revision of policy and practice
- Recognising that adults are role models for children by committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment; working in partnership with parents and carers and finding ways to avoid the need for over-the-counter drugs, when possible
- Sharing good practice in drugs education through links with the advisory team and links with other schools
- Crucial Crew for Y6 which focuses upon personal safety and decision making

Planning

At Morgans School our plans are based on the LCP Drug Education Scheme of Work.

Special Educational Needs/Equal Opportunities

Additional support may be given by staff. Activities may be differentiated.

Teaching- curriculum, materials and approaches

Delivery will be

- Through planned elements of national curriculum subjects and RE
- Through PSHE and citizenship time.
- Through pastoral time
- Through assemblies
- Through occasional planned and negotiated visits from the school nurse, police officer or other appropriate people
- Through the use of story, circle time and other opportunities
- Through informal curriculum and opportunities for extra curricular activities

- Through suitable videos / DVD's

A wide range of teaching approaches can be used and we encourage children's full participation. Ground rules will be negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognised, safeguarding the interests of the child and the whole class.

The work will be regularly monitored and evaluated by all involved, including the young people.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is clear that they work within the child protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

Working with visitors

Visitors can make a valuable contribution to drug education provision but do not constitute a comprehensive programme. The rationale for bringing in a visitor must be clear. It must enhance the overall educational experience and must educate rather than sensationalize. It must fit with the stated aims and objectives of school PSHE and Citizenship Policy and Drug Education Policy. School staff must always be present and the educational outcomes evaluated. We will only use visitors listed by the Herts drugs education forum (ref 3.6 of Drugs guidance for schools. All drugs education visitors will receive a copy of the drugs education policy.

Role and responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children, they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

All staff should consider themselves as role models whose behaviour the children are likely to notice and follow. Staff also have a responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incidents. They receive training and support in delivering their responsibilities.

The Head teacher, Deputy and PSHE and Citizenship Coordinator have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area is followed, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug related incidents.

The Drug Education Co-ordinator (PSHCE Co-ordinator) is responsible for overseeing both curriculum delivery and other elements of school life contributing to drug education. This will include monitoring and evaluating drug education policy and practice throughout the school. The Drug Education Co-ordinator will work with other co-ordinators to identify where other learning experience contribute to drug education.

The Governor with responsibility for drug education and drug related issues understands the issues involved and how they relate to wider issues of behaviour and school ethos.

Response to drug related incidents

Our definition of 'drug' includes medicines, alcohol and tobacco and it is therefore important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by the Drug Guidance for Schools 2004.

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

In the absence of a medical emergency the drug co-ordinator will be informed and an appropriate response considered. We will refer to Appendix 9 of the Drugs Guidance for Schools document 2004 on responding to drug related incidents and in determining the response, the implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and wider community.

Responses will be cross-referenced with school related policies such as:

- Behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Child Protection
- School Visits

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. child protection) we will inform parents or guardians at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and to resolve difficulties.

Our aim is to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential. We will work with the pupil, their parents or carers and colleagues from other agencies to remove barriers to achievement and resolve any difficulties that exist. Drug related situations will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young person's life and not in isolation. We accept that it is never appropriate to respond in a way that is more punitive than that which might be considered by the police so that exclusion, whilst it remains an option, will be used as the very last resort.

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the head teacher and, in the presence of another member of staff placed in a sealed container in the school safe until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. S/he will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. The County Advisor for Drugs Education (01582 830108) is also able to provide guidance and advice.

All staff will be made aware of the legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving the co-ordinator. (ref section 4.6 Drugs Guidance for Schools 2004).

This policy should be reviewed at least once a year by the staff and governors. Parents can approach the school on any issue covered in this policy document.

Hannah Orton

February 2010

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