

## Long Furlong Primary School Drug Education Policy

### Definition of 'Drugs'

At Long Furlong School, we use the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime definition of a drug as *"a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave"*. This definition includes: all illegal substances; legal substances, such as alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances; over the counter and prescription medicines. (*Drugs: Guidance for Schools. DfES February 2004*)

### Rationale

We acknowledge that drugs affect all communities in modern society. We have a moral and legal obligation to the children in our care to address this issue and to ensure that we do all we can to:

- Inform pupils, parents and staff about the risks and consequences of drug misuse.
- Teach young people, from the age of four upwards, the skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs.
- Help make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable to young people, by including the use of effective and targeted national and local publicity and information.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and positive activities enabling children to make healthy choices.
- Build on and disseminate good practice in identifying what works best in prevention and education activity.

### Aims

At our school we aim to create a safe and secure environment which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and in society, as well as preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Through our taught PSHE curriculum we aim to prepare children for their role in society as independent, confident individuals who can make wise decisions for themselves.

We believe that drug education is a major component of drug prevention and so aim to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol abuse, the use of solvents and drug abuse
- Help pupils to understand the beneficial part drugs play in society
- Teach children that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines
- Educate pupils on how to make informed and healthy choices

- Help children to develop independence of thought and strength of character to withstand peer pressure to take drugs.

Effective teaching of drug education alongside PSHE will increase pupils' knowledge of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and enable pupils to:

- Improve their self-esteem
- Make informed choices and decisions
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Maintain and develop relationships
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Develop the motivation to succeed

Within the taught and hidden curriculum, i.e. the whole school environment, pupils should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practise personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home; we believe that these values, alongside school links, are an essential dimension to drug education.

### **Drug Education Guidance**

Drug Education and the National Curriculum:

The guidance for PSHE outlines specifically how pupils should be taught:

- At FS - Children are taught to know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe.
- At KS1 . about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules
- At KS2 . about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs and basic skills to manage risky situations. They learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take more responsibility for their actions.

### **Good Practice in Drug Education**

It is important that the drug education is planned, integrated and progressive.

Drug education should not be:

- A one-off lesson or event given either by a teacher or an outside speaker
- Only a video
- Shock horror tactics as this can be counter-productive

- A reaction to a crisis

Good drug education should provide young people with opportunities to develop a range of skills that will enable them to make informed choices in relation to drugs, as well as the opportunity to discuss issues surrounding the use of drugs. It should enable them to take an increasing responsibility for themselves and their behaviour.

Young people should have an understanding of how attitudes and behaviour related to drugs are determined by such things as moral and social values. They should also have a sound knowledge about not only the risks involved in drug misuse (legal and illegal substances) but also the medical benefits of drugs. Good drugs education does not happen in isolation and it is important to reinforce key messages across all phases of education. To this end we use a spiral education as the most effective means of developing a programme based very much on the development of life skills.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Drug Education should:

- Address children's individual needs
- Increase access to the curriculum
- Enhance learning skills and develop previous knowledge

Drug education is an important aspect of Health education and for children with special educational needs the curriculum needs to be specific to their needs. These pupils may be at greater risk than young people who are more aware of the potential dangers involved. These pupils may be taking medication and it is therefore important to stress the distinction between the importance of the medical benefits and drug misuse. The curriculum should equip these young people with life skills required to cope with the potential dangers.

### **Health and Safety**

All forms of illegal substance are forbidden on the school premises. The school has a no smoking policy that should be observed by all those who visit it. We rely on the support of all staff, parents and governors in implementing this programme.

### **Drug Incident: where substance misuse or supply is suspected**

Staff should follow the flowchart found in the *Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES February 2004) pages 117-118 (see 8A)* and inform the Head teacher who will then assess the school's legal requirements, this may include the involvement of appropriate outside agencies, and the proposed school response, the involvement of parents/carers, the arrangements for recording and informing other agencies, and the Health & Safety procedures (see Health & Safety policy) including safe handling of suspect substances.

## **Smoking**

The whole site is designated as a no smoking area. Smoking is forbidden and if anyone is found smoking on site the Head Teacher must be notified and will take appropriate action.

## **Medicines**

Refer to the Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions policy.