



## **HARTSBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Drug Education Policy**

Valuing Potential, Creating Opportunities

This policy to be read in conjunction with Equal Opportunities Policy, PSHE + C Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy, SEN Policy, AGT Policy, Science Policy.

#### **RATIONALE**

At Hartsbourne Primary School we recognise that educating children about the use and mis-use of drugs can enable them to become confident and independent members of their community, who make sensible and informed choices regarding their health and well-being. Alongside this we believe that educating children about peer pressure, the relationships between themselves and their friends and following their own 'moral compass' in decision making will equip them with the skills to make these sensible choices as they grow up.

We recognise that the term 'drugs' can include alcohol, tobacco, medicines, prescribed and illegal drugs.

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Our children will:

- Learn what the term 'drug' actually means;
- Learn about the different types of drug, and that not all of them are harmful or illegal;
- Learn about the effects, both helpful and harmful, that drugs can have on our bodies;
- Recognise the element of choice involved in taking drugs, and link it to other work they have completed about making sensible choices;
- Understand that peer pressure can often be the cause of children using illegal drugs, and know strategies to avoid being influenced in this way;
- Speculate on the reasons why people over-use legal drugs (e.g. alcohol) or turn to illegal drugs;
- Recognise the addictive qualities that drugs can have and how that can be dangerous to our health and well-being.

#### **TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES**

Children will access education regarding drugs in two key areas of the curriculum: Science and PSHE and Citizenship.

##### **Science**

We believe that educating the children about drugs through the teaching of Science can allow them to understand what drugs are, what their purpose is and what effects they can have on our bodies.

In Key Stage One children will learn:

- that sometimes we take medicines when we get ill, these help us to get better;
- that medicines are useful but are drugs not foods, and can be dangerous;
- that some people need medicines to keep them alive and healthy;

- to ask questions about medicines and health;
- that medicines can be dangerous if we take them without consulting parents or doctors;
- to recognise hazards and risks in medicines and how to avoid these;
- to communicate information about the safe use of medicines.

In Key Stage Two children will revise and review what they have learned in Key Stage One, and extend further by learning:

- that substances like tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can affect the way the body functions and these effects can be harmful;
- that medicines are also drugs and also affect the way the body functions but the effects are usually beneficial though there may be side effects;
- that medicines can be harmful if they are not taken according to instructions.

### **PSHE and Citizenship**

We believe that educating the children about making sensible choices and not bowing to peer pressure through PSHE and Citizenship will give them the skills required to make healthy, informed choices as they grow up. The entire school follows the SEAL scheme of work which will allow the children to consolidate and extend their learning in these areas each year.

As part of the 'Good to be me' and 'Relationships' themes, children will learn:

- to recognise what they like and dislike, what is fair and unfair, and what is right and wrong;
- to recognise choices they can make, and recognise the difference between right and wrong;
- to recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly;
- 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 use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong;
- that their actions affect themselves and others.

Drugs education may also be delivered to our children through dedicated assemblies, including visits from outside agencies such as the school nurse, police officers, theatre groups and drugs advisory officers.

### **Assessment**

Assessment of drugs education will be completed through the assessments of Science and PSHE and Citizenship (see relevant policies).

## **DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

Any situation where drugs may possibly be involved should be treated seriously.

Each situation needs to be responded to individually as a variety of responses may be necessary. These responses may link to other policies such as Behaviour, Health and Safety or Child Protection.

Parents should be informed as early as possible so that the school and parents can work together in supporting the child.

It is unrealistic to promise confidentiality and this should not be done, especially when there is a risk to that child or to another person. The child should be informed to whom information is being passed on. Information concerning risk to pupils or other people should be passed on to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher immediately so that parents, other appropriate adults and support services can be consulted.

In responding to a situation a balance needs to be found between the interests of the individual, other members of the school and the extended community. The safety and well being of the individual child is the main focus – not the drug.

If drugs (or similarly abusive substances) are discovered on school premises the following steps should be taken:

- Obtain medical help if necessary. Keep any evidence of what has been taken, such as the substance itself, packing or vomit. (This includes adverse reactions to medicinal drugs).
- Take the substance from the child or location and place in a safe container. If at all possible a witness should be present. In all cases, a written statement should be made as soon as possible – this should be counter-signed by the witness, if present.
- Notify parents or guardians immediately.
- Inform the police (School's Liaison or Community Office) if it is considered appropriate and follow their advice.
- If longer term support is needed, develop an action plan to help the child in consultation with the parents and other relevant agencies including counseling services.

If a needle or syringe is discovered within the school grounds it must not be touched. Ask the Site Manager to cone off the area and inform all staff of the location. Then the district council should be contacted. They will arrange for the offending items to be collected and disposed of safely.

Hertsmere – 020 8207 2277 (ask for Environmental Health)

Watford – 01923 235946 (Cleansing Department)

Date of Policy: May 2012

Date of Review: May 2014