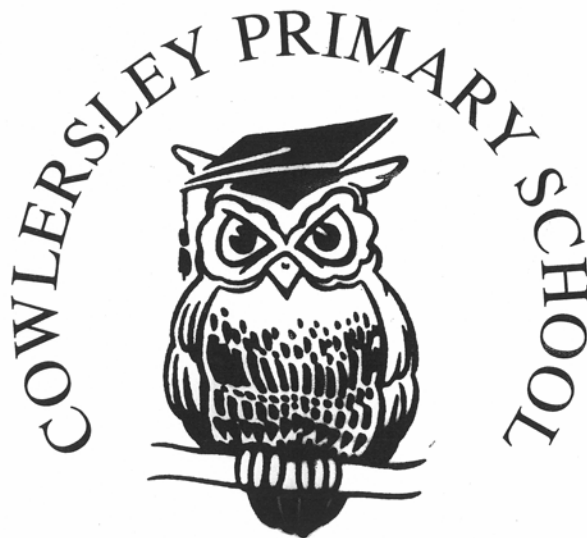


Cowlersley Primary School

Drugs Education Policy



Date reviewed: *Autumn Term 2009*

Date to review: *Autumn Term 2010*

Cowlersley Primary school

Drugs Policy

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations on drugs and Crime is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term drugs is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs: All illegal drugs (illegal drugs are those covered by the misuse of drugs act), all legal drugs including: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (a gas or a vapour which can be inhaled) all over the counter and prescription medicines.

Background and principles

There is an understandable anxiety about the issue of drug use and its inclusion in the curriculum. However the reality is that we live in a drug orientated society where drug use is commonplace. Drugs are used legally and illegally, by individuals or in a social setting, for example tobacco and alcohol. More and more young people are making the choice to use illegal drugs.

As a school we recognise that drug use is a matter that concerns the whole community. In response to this the school policy attempts to address the needs of the pupils, staff, parents / carers, wider community and the curriculum. The schools role is to inform, discuss and present choices rather than to prescribe, judge or blame.

- Up until the date of this policy there is little evidence of a 'drug problem' within our school. However our school takes a proactive position on the issue of drug misuse.
- Our school recognises that drug use is a fact of life and an issue that pupils will have to face as they grow up.
- Our school is a non smoking site.
- Our school is committed to a healthy and safe environment for all. Appropriate action will be taken to ensure our general well-being.
- Our school has achieved the Kirklees Healthy School standard.
- Our school recognises the importance of both the formal and informal curriculum in shaping the perceptions / behaviour of pupils.
- Our school places great emphasis on its pastoral role. At all times, in dealing with drugs use, the general welfare of each pupil is of paramount importance.

Community links.

Shaping the attitudes and behaviour of young people is a huge responsibility. A basic principle of the school's philosophy towards education is effective communication and co-operation between the school and parents / carers. Effective education is founded upon shared responsibility.

Our school will attempt to offer support and guidance to individual pupils and groups of pupils. Support may be required as a follow up to classroom, or as a result of incidents taking place in or out of school. All staff are made aware of the limits of confidentiality. Cowlersley Primary School is also very aware of its potential limitations and may at times need to seek the support and advice of outside agencies.

Aims

The school seeks to achieve the following:

- Ensure that pupils understand the facts (based on current knowledge) about drug misuse.
- Encourage an understanding of the possible effects, risks and consequences of legal and illegal drug use.
- Develop a wider understanding of possible health related and social issues.
- Encourage and develop individual responsibility and responsibility towards others.
- Discourage choices in behaviour that may put individuals at risk.
- Enhance the skills and confidence of young people to make positive and informed choices in situations where drugs may be available.
- To ensure that pupils, teachers, parents / carers and the wider school community are aware of the support available in schools and from appropriate outside agencies.

These aims will be achieved through the learning experiences of pupils in the formal and informal curriculum. Education about drug use / misuse is part of the wider PSHCE delivered to all pupils and is supported by learning taking place in other areas of the curriculum. The issues are addressed in an open, frank and positive way appropriate to the age of the pupils as a vital part of pupil learning. At times the school actively co-operates with a number of external groups and agencies in order to deliver the PSHCE.

Any outside agencies that are used are chosen with care. They are made aware of the school policy and are integrated into the school curriculum through: *Discussion with staff, access to the school website, careful planning.*

Responsibilities

The Headteacher as 'Designated Person for Safeguarding', alongside the Governing Body take overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation in our school. The responsibility includes liaison with the governing body, parents / carers, LA and any appropriate outside agency.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are adequately trained and supported.

In cases where the suspicion of drug use / misuse is confirmed by evidence the Headteacher will inform parents / carers and will then work together in the best interests of the pupil/s. The Headteacher will assess the limits of confidentiality and the use of outside agencies.

The Headteacher with support of the LA will take all responsibility for contact with the media.

Discovering or confiscating substances – any substances should be taken to the Headteacher. A record of time, date place and circumstances will be kept. If at all possible this record will be countersigned by a witness. The Headteacher will decide what action to take.