



Belswains Primary School

Drug Education Policy

Policy Reviewed by Governing Board

Autumn 2023

Reviewed by PSHE Co-ordinator September 2023

Next Review Date: Autumn 2026

DW Reviewed: 14 October 2023

Belswains Primary School Drug Education Policy

Why do we have a Drug education policy?

At Belswains Primary School we believe that the purpose of Drug education should be to give our pupils knowledge, skills, and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future. Our first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the children. We are committed to investing in our pupils' health and wellbeing, because we believe doing so will assist the process of raising their achievements. Drug education is an important issue that is both essential and relevant to children in the real world. By building pupils' resilience, values and skills around alcohol and drugs, teachers help young people to develop the life skills to enter adulthood healthy and avoiding harms.

Alcohol and Drug education is a statutory part of the science curriculum for schools in England, and this can be built on through the Personal Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum.

In developing our policy and programme of study we have taken account of the DfES guidance contained in 'Guidance for schools' (2004) <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DfES%200092%20200MIG621.doc> and the Quality Standard for Drug Education.

<http://mentor-adepis.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Quality-standards-for-alcohol-and-drug-education.pdf>

What is Drug education?

For this policy and our Drug education programme, drugs are defined as: *a substance people take to change the way they think, feel, or behave*. Our school uses the term 'drug' to include, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, medicines, vape, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.

Drug education is part of Personal Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Attitudes and values

- To develop as a healthy primary school
- Explore, consider, and understand attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making
- Learning to respect & value difference & diversity.
- To help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse.

Personal and social skills

- Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice.
- Learning to make informed choices.
- Exploring the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions & choices in relation to drugs, drug use & drug users
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.
- Developing inter-personal skills
- To help children become more self-confident so that they can make sensible and informed decisions about their lives.
- Learning about playing a positive and active role as citizens

Knowledge and understanding

- Learning about a safe & healthy lifestyle based on accurate information.
- Having myths & misunderstandings about drugs, drug use & drug users dispelled
- Learning about seeking appropriate help & advice
- Learning about their community and the society of which they are a part in relation to drugs, drug use & drug users.
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- To provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.
- To enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- To let children, know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs.

How is Drug education provided?

- Within the taught, age appropriate, spiral Drugs Education programme in PSHE
- Pastoral support for any pupils who experience difficulties.
- By the provision of appropriate information through leaflets and books
- Delivery in response to any drug related incidents or issues that may arise.

Teaching Methods & Resources

Continuity and Progression

At Belswains, we follow the CWP programme (CWP is a company providing resources recommended by the National PSHE Association) which provides continuity and progression across the school. This includes a whole school approach to the planning and delivery of clearly defined and progressive learning objectives covering knowledge, skills and understanding. All pupils from Years 1 to 6 will receive specific 'Drug Education' within their regular, timetabled PSHE lessons. PSHE will be taught both as a discrete subject, in response to any day-to-day issues and through any other appropriate cross-curricular links.

Safe Learning Environment

PSHE is conducted in a safe learning environment using ground rules and distancing techniques so that pupils are not put on the spot or expected to discuss their own personal issues in class.

Active learning

Active learning methods, which involve children's full participation, will be used.

Answering and Asking Questions

In most cases teachers will attempt to answer children's questions and concerns in a sensitive, age and development appropriate manner. Individual teachers will use their skill and discretion in these situations and if necessary, refer to the PSHE Co-ordinator or DSL for advice and support. Teachers will also follow the following guidance:

- Teachers will establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting.
- If a child's question is inappropriate to address with the whole class, the teacher should acknowledge the question and attend to it later on an individual basis.
- If a question is too personal, the teacher will remind the pupil of the ground rules.

Resources

Teaching resources are selected based on their appropriateness to pupils. The topics and resources covered by the CWP programme are:

Year 1: Medicines and people who help us.

Year 2: Keeping safe.

Year 3: Smoking

Year 4: Alcohol

Year 5: Legal and illegal drugs

Year 6: Preventing early use (Cannabis)

Assessment

Pupils' existing knowledge needs to be the starting point for all drug work, and this is built into some lesson planning, as each group may have different knowledge, experience and understanding. Teachers assess learning in Drug education within PSHE by making informal judgements as they observe pupils during lessons and through discussion.

The elements of Drug education that form part of the science curriculum are assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Equal Opportunities

The school has a commitment to equal opportunities, and this will be built into all aspects of Drug education. In line with the equal opportunities provision in the PHSE policy, we will consider the ability, age, readiness, and cultural backgrounds of the students to ensure that all can access the full Drug education provision.

Administration of medicines

Details of the school's policy on the storage and administration of medicines is contained in our 'Supporting children with medical conditions' policy. A copy is available from the school office.

Management of medicines is designed to reinforce our teaching and learning objectives visibly and consistently on the safe use of medicines.

Consultation & Training

The school is committed to ensuring that everyone involved with teaching, or supporting the teaching of drugs education receives appropriate and ongoing professional development to maintain whole school consistency and high standards for the children in our care.

Role of Parents

The school understands the primary role in children's Drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and children at our school through mutual understanding, trust, and co-operation. In promoting this objective, we will:

- Inform parents about the school Drug education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions parents may have about the Drug education their child receives in school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The programme is regularly evaluated by the PSHE co-ordinator. The views of pupils and teachers who deliver the programme are used to make changes and improvements to the programme on an ongoing basis.

Response to Possible Drug Related Incidents

Our definition of a drug includes medicines (both prescription and over the counter), tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances, and illegal drugs. 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 Association of Chief Police Officers and the DfE https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf 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 headteacher will be informed, and an appropriate response considered. We will refer to the DfES/Children, Schools, and Families guidelines on responding to drug related incidents to determine the necessary 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 the wider community.

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the Headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff, placed in a sealed container and both signed and dated. It should then be safely stored until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. The police officer will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. All such incidents will be recorded.

The headteacher (or another member of the Senior leadership Team in the absence of the headteacher) has the power to search pupils without consent where they suspect the pupil has a 'prohibited item', this includes alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and cigarette papers.

In the event a parent/adult is suspected of being in possession or under the influence of drugs (including alcohol), the headteacher (or deputy in their absence) should be informed immediately, when a decision will then be made whether to request the individual to leave the premises or the police to be called.

Policy Development & Review

This policy document was produced in consultation with both the staff and Governors. It has been made available to the whole school community and parents through the school website.

Policy Links

PSHE
Science
Safeguarding
Supporting children with medical conditions
RSE – Relationships & Sex Education