

Meltham CE (C) School



Drugs Education Policy

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Approved by:	Chair of Governors: Mr P White		
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1.0 Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To define how education on drugs is delivered in the school.
- To define the procedures to be followed in the event of an incident involving drugs.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- The Headteacher and Senior Leaders monitor each area of the policy to ensure implementation.
- Classteachers read and implement all areas of the policy.

3.0 Policy

Meltham CE School acknowledges that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the children's health and safety whilst in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

3.1 Definition of a Drug

This policy defines a drug as being 'any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.' As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco
- ‘over the counter medicines’ such as paracetamol for headaches
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

3.2 Drugs Education

The school aims to promote the development of the ‘whole person’ which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and in preparation for adulthood. In teaching children about drugs, the school ensures children begin to develop an understanding of risk and also that the term *drugs* can be used to describe a range of both legal and illegal substances some of which (*referred to as medicines in school*) are beneficial when administered under the care of a parent, trusted adult or healthcare professional.

An *healthy lifestyle* is a common and repetitive theme promoted regularly across the curriculum in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. As part of the taught curriculum, school utilises materials published by the PSHE society to supplement Drugs education which takes place in Key Stage 2 during Year 5. In addition to this, school is able to adopt and modify materials from the Kirklees SPICED programme (Schools’ Partnership In Children’s Education on Drugs) which was formally run by Wests Yorkshire Police.

Parents are always informed that the programme is to take place and are invited to make contact should they have questions or concerns.

3.3 Procedure for Handling Drug-Related Incidents

A suspected drug-related incident could be:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- An adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved will:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Ensure first aid is administered should it be necessary
- Secure any illegal drug found in a secure place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident

In the first instance, the incident will be reported to the headteacher who will contact the police.

If a child is the perpetrator, the parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the headteacher.

All staff are made aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be followed. If a search needs to be made the headteacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure and the Headteacher is to be informed.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the Positive Behaviour Policy and the Staff Discipline and Grievance Policy.

4.0 Appendices

“SPICED” Drugs Education programme