

THE QUEENSWELL FEDERATION

DRUGS EDUCATION & INCIDENTS POLICY

Policy Written by: **Spencer Clayton**

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Rationale

“A drug is a substance that alters the way the mind or the body works, this may be physically, mentally or emotional.” (Barnet – School Drug Policy Template)

At The Queenswell Federation, we acknowledge the importance of drug education in primary schools and are committed to delivering drug education in an effective and efficient way.

Equalities

At The Queenswell Federation, we believe it is the right of all pupils, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, physical ability or linguistic, cultural or home background to have access to high quality learning experiences in stimulating and supporting environment where prejudice and stereotyping are challenged.

We recognise that certain groups and individuals may be discriminated against and therefore are strongly committed to positive action to remove and challenge discrimination in all aspects of the School and its work. The importance of staff awareness regarding the dangers of preconceived expectations based on stereotypes is discussed and we bear this in mind when teaching Drugs Education and in relation to any drugs incidents.

Aim

The aim of the school is to ensure that all young people are given the skills, knowledge and understanding to make healthy, informed decisions about substance use and misuse.

Objectives

Through our drugs education programme, the children will:

- Know that there are some medicines/ drugs which are beneficial (when appropriately taken), some which are harmful
- Know that there are over the counter prescription, legal and illegal substances and have some understanding of their effect
- Know how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressure from friends and others
- Know the importance and beneficial part which medicines have played in society

Implementation of the Drugs Programme

Statutory Provision

- **Regulations:** The drug education programme will comply with all the current information published on this issue
- **Practice:** The drug education programme will be integrated into the PSHCE / Science programme of study where appropriate
- **Lists:** There is a list of resources and contacts at the back of the policy to allow for further reading
- **Advice:** Advice can be sought from the PSHCE/ Science Subject Leader or Head Of School

At key stages 1 and 2

Pupils build age-appropriate foundational skills and underpinning knowledge including:

- **Safety rules at home for medicines and household products**, including what medicines and vaccinations are and how they help to keep people healthy
- **The risks and effects** of using tobacco, alcohol and other drugs
- **Managing pressure and influences** including that from peers and the media
- **How to seek help and support** for themselves or others in relation to health and/or substances

Drug education will be addressed through the Science & PSHCE curriculum. Using the curriculum, The Queenswell Federation seeks to assist young people in their personal and emotional development and allow time for reflection with opportunities for exploration of attitudes and values. The way drug education is carried out can be by using a range of strategies, such as:

- Discussion
- Role Play
- Group Work
- Structured Games
- Visual aids

Outside Speakers

If outside speakers are used to complement the work in school, they will be properly briefed beforehand and the content of their sessions will be agreed with the teacher co-facilitating the lesson. The speaker will be incorporated into a programme of drug education or in general 'staying safe' education. A member of staff will also participate in deliveries from outside agencies and careful attention paid to follow up work.

Procedures involved in the Drugs Programme

Medicines

The school will need to be kept informed in writing of any medicines that a pupil may need during the school day or on the school premises (please see Administration Of Medication Policy).

School Trips

The pupils are the responsibility of the school whilst they are attending an event or on a residential. Any young person involved in a drug related incident whilst attending such an event will be dealt with according to school policy. Any medicines taken on the trips must be labelled clearly with the child's name and the frequency at which the medicines should be taken. A medical form should be completed for each child on a residential trip.

Confidentiality

Young people wishing to disclose drug use by themselves or others will be informed that staff cannot treat the information confidentially but they will deal with it sensitively.

Disclosure

The main purpose of drug education is to explore young people's attitude and values and not their personal drug use. For this reason, this point must be addressed within the first lesson so that neither staff nor pupils will discuss their own drug use. Everyone should have the opportunity to share their opinions and have them valued. At the start of any drug education pupils and staff will agree that a disclosure from staff or pupils within school drug education should be avoided at all times. If any staff member is asked to disclose their own drug use, they will draw pupil's attention back to this agreement.

Drug-Related Incidents

A drug related incident is any incident where the school has reason to be concerned for the immediate or long-term safety or welfare of an individual child, group of children, parent, carers or staff member and where drugs or drug use are significant or contributory factors. Drug related incidents in schools are rarely extreme. The majority of young people who use drugs are 'experimental' or 'recreational' users rather than 'habitual' users. All drug use carries risks, and these should neither be inappropriately exaggerated nor inappropriately minimised.

The school's response will be measured and balanced against the extent or nature of the incident.

Young people requiring prescribed or 'over the counter' medication is a separate issue and is not covered in this policy; however, many 'over the counter preparations' are potentially lethal if misused. A young person thought to have misused *any substance* by intent or accident will always be treated as a serious medical emergency and medical advice and treatment will be swiftly sought.

The use of 'recreational' drugs or the bringing of 'recreational' drugs onto the school premises will not be tolerated. The same principle will apply to school trips.

All staff have a duty to support young people who approach them with problems related to drug use. Prior to further investigation, such an approach should always be considered as a request for help and a pastoral rather than disciplinary matter.

When dealing with any incident, in priority, staff should consider:

- medical support – immediate first aid if required, then appropriate referral to health services
- immediate safety/ welfare support – is the young person ‘at risk’ from their own behaviour or the behaviour of others?
- pastoral support – counselling and guidance
- discipline – only if appropriate

All staff should swiftly ensure that the SLT are informed about any such problem.

The school, including grounds, will be regularly checked for signs of drug misuse (including discarded drug taking equipment).

Any use of illegal drugs, the actual or the offer to supply illegal drugs on school premises or on school trips will always be reported to the police.

As a general principle, parents/ carers will always be notified of the school’s concern over a drug related incident. The only exception to this is when the Headteacher feels that the welfare of the young person would be placed in greater jeopardy by this action, in which case a referral will be made to Social Services via MASH.

There are six situations that would constitute a drug-related incident outlined below:

- **Emergencies** - Where a pupil has lost consciousness or gone into a coma
- **Intoxication** - Being ‘High’. When it is difficult to communicate with the person
- **Observation** - Where a young person is discovered using, holding, supplying or offering to supply a substance not permitted on the school premises
- **Disclosure** - Where a pupil discloses to a member of staff that s/he has been using drugs or that they are concerned about someone else’s drug use
- **Suspicion** - Staff should be wary about acting on the basis of rumour or suspicion but should complete a record of concern
- **Discovery** - This may be the discovery of a restricted drug or paraphernalia that is used in conjunction with its use

PROCEDURES

Drugs or equipment are discovered on school premises

Staff are required to:

- take possession and store securely
- inform a senior member of staff as soon as possible who will
- seek police advice re identification of substance and safe disposal
- record the incident

In the event of a syringe being found it will be placed in a safe labelled & sealed container (e.g. screw top coffee jar) and placed in a safe location prior to safe disposal. Under no circumstances will a used syringe be placed in a waste bin.

A pupil is found in possession of drugs

Staff are required to:

- take possession of the substance and store securely
- inform SLT
- seek advice from police re identification of substance and safe disposal/other legal actions
- inform the parents or carers

A pupil is thought to be in possession of a drug

Staff are required to:

- isolate the pupil from peers and supervise at all times
- inform senior member of staff
- ensure two members of staff are present from now on
- supervise the young person while SLT informs the police
- supervise the young person while the parents/carers are informed

The school reserves the right to search the bag and locker of any pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs and to ask a young person to empty his/her pockets. If the young person refuses to be searched, the LMT have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have drugs. (section 91 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006; updated January 2018)

A member of staff suspects a pupil is under the influence of a drug

Staff will never treat intoxication lightly. The effect of any drug (including alcohol) on a young person can be highly unpredictable. Intoxication or a suspected overdose (even if the young person appears fit and well) will always be deemed a medical emergency.

Under no circumstances should an intoxicated young person be disciplined until medical advice has been sought. Intoxication from solvent can be lethal if the young person is suddenly shocked and the effects of psychedelic drugs can be exacerbated by discipline with potentially catastrophic results.

Staff are required to:

- seek medical advice (999 – if urgent)
- perform appropriate first aid measures
- keep the young person as calm as possible
- inform a senior member of staff
- ensure no other pupils are at risk (if appropriate call an emergency whole school registration)
- inform parents/carers
- if child is 'at risk', make a MASH referral
- inform police if appropriate

A pupil discloses that they are using drugs

Staff are required to:

- inform SLT
- is the child 'at risk'? Make a MASH referral
- inform parents/ carers
- seek advice from the AddAction team (www.addiction.org.uk) and, if appropriate, Social Services

A pupil discloses parents or carers misuse/supply drugs

Staff are required to:

- inform SLT
- is the child 'at risk'? Make a MASH referral
- notify SLT and retain the child if a parent collecting a child from school (especially by car) appears intoxicated. (If unable to retain the child, telephone 999 and inform police)

The school discovers that a pupil is 'dealing drugs' in the school

Staff are required to:

(see above on – A pupil is thought to be in possession of a drug)

- inform SLT
- inform police
- secure as much evidence as possible
- work with police to construct an action plan

Records/Action

All drug related incidents will be recorded on the school incident/concern sheet. These will be kept securely and only shared with key people with the consent of the Head Of School. The Head Of School will deal with incidents that occur on school premises. This may involve contacting Social Services, Barnet Borough Council or other appropriate agencies as advised.

Sanctions

Action/sanctions will be appropriately applied to any drug-related incident in school. Any response will be taken after considering all the facts about a young person, their emotions and circumstances in which the drug related incidents have come about.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Throughout the drug education programme, teachers will monitor, record and assess the progress being made by the children. The criteria to which this assessment will take place is:

- The knowledge and understanding that is acquired
- The skills that have been learnt or developed
- The attitudes and values explored

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

To ensure that the most effective and efficient programme has been developed, staff and children will regularly review the drug programme being delivered at Queenswell Junior School. The LMT & Governors will carry out an evaluation of the drugs programme regularly and review it where necessary.

Governors are responsible for the monitoring and implementation of this policy.

Related Policies

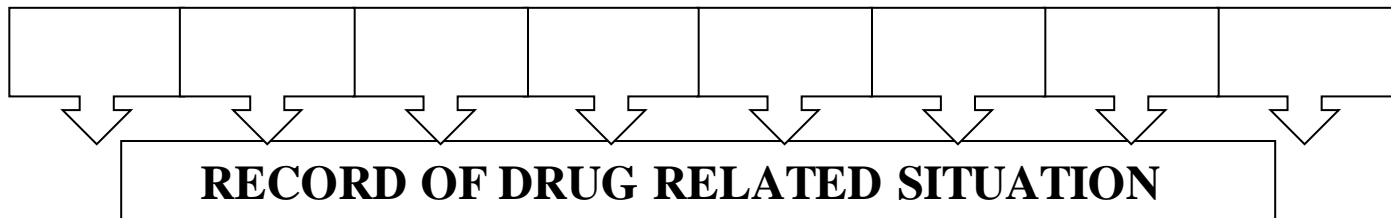
References to the drugs education programme can be found in the PSHCE policy and the Science Policy

References

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

AddAction details

<http://www.youngpeopleshealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Young-People-and-Substance-Misuse-Report.pdf>



Name of Pupil:		Report Form Completed by:	
Was first aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	First aid given by:	
Was a doctor or ambulance called?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Called By:	
Drug Involved (if known): (e.g. alcohol, paracetamol, ecstasy)		Sample found?	
Senior Staff involved:		Where retained	
Parent/Carer :			

Brief Description of symptoms/situation
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