

LINWOOD SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

THIS POLICY IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PARENTS, STAFF AND GOVERNORS.
IT IS ON THE SCHOOL NETWORK, WEBSITE and in DOCS POLICIES/GUIDELINES.

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Updated 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, May 2011, June 2014, July 2017, March 2020

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Key issues

- Drugs education includes all drugs illegal, legal, tobacco, alcohol and solvents
- Drugs Education is delivered as part of the schools PSHE Programme
- Clear guidelines on prescription drugs on the premises are contained within the policy.
- Pupils, parents or staff suspected of drugs misuse on the premises will be dealt with individually. Action will be taken according to the type of drug or substance found.
- Other agencies will be involved in supporting cases of drug misuse.
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the No Smoking Policy, PSHE Policy, Health and Safety, Intimate Care, Whistle Blowing and medical conditions at Linwood policies.
- Teachers have a duty of care to pupils entrusted to the school, including when on school trips.
- If a teacher has concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer they should refer this to the Designated Safe-Guarding Lead (DSL) immediately.
- Where the behaviour of the parent/carer places the child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will invoke child protection procedures.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Children and young people are influenced by information and images about drugs from a variety of sources in the home, through the mass media and popular music and by mixing with others who have knowledge of or use drugs. In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we at Linwood believe that we have a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse as part of our care for the welfare of our pupils.

AIMS

The aim of our drug education programme is to enable our young people to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

We aim:

- To provide opportunities for the pupils to acquire accurate knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse
- To provide opportunities for the pupils to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To give information about support services and how to deal with medical emergencies.
- To raise pupils' self esteem
- To create a climate where a pupil will feel comfortable to discuss his/her concerns or worries
- To enhance pupils' decision making skills

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Linwood School welcomes the support and encouragement of parents. Parents are encouraged to contact the subject leader to see the school's resources for drugs education and learn about the approaches we use.

DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

Drugs education includes teaching about all drugs, including illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over-the-counter and prescription medicines. Drugs education starts at Key Stage 1 and is revisited throughout the other Key Stages, building on previous work done as part of a spiral curriculum. Drugs education is taught, as part of the science curriculum and this will be extended through the school's PSHE programme. The school uses outside agencies where available and appropriate and also the Safer schools and Community Team. Mainly class teachers teach PSHE in Key Stage 1 & 2, this is through circle time, PSHE and topic work. All Key Stages will have access to teaching materials and resources, which are stored with the PSHE subject leaders.

Vita and Alma Curriculum

- Pupils are provided with opportunities to consider that medicines are drugs and that all substances are potentially harmful unless they are used properly.
- Pupils are provided with opportunities to consider the uses of a range of legal and illegal drugs. Pupils are taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

Personalised National Curriculum - Key Stage 3

Pupils are helped to understand the effects of drug use on body processes and life styles. They are provided with opportunities to accept personal responsibility for their own drug use and develop appropriate strategies for coping with situations in which drug use occurs. They have opportunities to develop their self-esteem and ability to make choices. Pupils are taught that the abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health and that the body's natural defence may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.

Personalised National Curriculum - Key Stage 4

Pupils are taught to accept personal responsibility for decisions regarding drugs and consider the effects of drug use on relationships. Pupils are taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions.

The use and misuse of drugs are influenced by a number of factors, including knowledge, perceptions of self-worth, attitudes, skills and social pressures. A variety of teaching strategies is used to reflect the needs of individual pupils. These include didactic methods, visiting speakers, audio-visual aids, questionnaires and games. Active participatory methods are used, such as group discussions, paired discussions, case studies, role-playing and interviewing. Lessons are taught through the three-part model. Outside agencies such as the Community Police, Social Services, the School Nurse and Drug Agencies are used to enhance and reinforce our pupils' learning programme.

ROLE OF THE SUBJECT LEADER

It is the role of the subject leader is to liaise, monitor and plan with class teachers to ensure effective delivery of the programme. The subject leader will be responsible for managing the budget and keeping resources. It is also the subject leader's responsibility to ensure that all new developments are disseminated to all staff. The subject leader will liaise with all staff, the Headteacher and INSET co-ordinator to arrange INSET and courses that may be appropriate. The subject leader will ensure that pupils are aware of this policy and the consequences.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH PUPILS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF DRUGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Any pupils found carrying drugs or substances on school premises will have the items immediately confiscated. Action will be taken according to the type of drug or substance found.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

See Medicines policy for clear guidance

ILLEGAL DRUGS

If a pupil is suspected of using illegal drugs the school will consider each incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with them. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community.

Permanent exclusion is seen as the last resort as it may only transfer the problem. Any concerns should be passed onto the DSL of each campus via My Concern

Action to be taken:

The Headteacher will be informed and she will inform the police.

The drugs will be confiscated, in the presence of a witness, and handed to the police on arrival. Teachers should be prepared to deal with a drug related medical emergency therefore first aiders should be on hand and teachers need to seek further professional medical advice where necessary.

An incident form will be completed.

Parents will be informed and made aware of the involvement of the police. Where the school suspects that to do this might put the child's safety at risk or if there is any cause for concern for the child's safety at home, then the school will follow child protection procedures.

Advice will be taken and the incident will be addressed through a multi-agency approach.

Linwood has a no smoking policy and any tobacco related products, alcohol or solvents will be confiscated and the parents informed by telephone. The items will be returned directly to the parents or disposed of at the discretion of the Headteacher.

The use of drugs, smoking, alcohol or solvents on school trips/residential will follow the same guidelines as for on the school premises.

STAFF

Teachers have a duty of care to pupils entrusted to the school, including when on school trips. A member of staff may be deemed unfit to work if he or she poses a risk or potential risk to the health and safety of pupils or colleagues

PARENTS AND CARERS

When dealing with parents/carers suspected to be under the influence of drugs on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. If a teacher has concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer they may wish to discuss alternative arrangement e.g. contacting another family member/emergency contact to accompany the child home. Where the behaviour of the parent/carer places the child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent staff will invoke safe guarding procedures.

CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no general legal duty to disclose information about drug misuse but failure to disclose information may be seen as a breach of general duty of care. All cases of suspected misuse must be reported to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding lead. Each case will be considered individually and parents will be informed in the case of pupil misuse. The Whistle Blowing Policy should be referred to in cases of staff misuse.

If a teacher is aware or knows of any possible criminal activity outside school premises, including information about the supply of illegal drugs, or has evidence that pupils are obtaining alcohol or solvents in contravention of the law, the police must be informed.

Information about a pupil, parent or member of staff involved in a drug related incident will remain confidential and any records will have restricted access and be stored in a locked cabinet with the Child Protection records or staff records. Records will not be kept on computer (ref. Data Protection Act).

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Governors who have a responsibility for curriculum matters including drug education will be informed about matters relating to drug misuse. The issues can then be considered when planning the curriculum for the school.

DESCRIPTION OF POLICY FORMATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

This policy has been written by the PSHCE/PSHEE subject leader in full consultation with the Governors, Headteacher and staff. The policy will be evaluated and reviewed on a three-yearly basis.

Reference to other policies

No Smoking Policy

PSHE Policy

Health & Safety Policy

Medical conditions at Linwood

Whistle Blowing Policy

Intimate Care Policy

Documentation used

Guidelines for dealing with drug misuse in educational establishments Dorset.

Drug Prevention in School - DfEE Circular 4/95

Curriculum Guidance for Schools - DfEE SCAA Drug Education

Health education - National Curriculum Council 5

Dorset Curriculum Guidelines - Health Education

Dorset Guidelines for drugs education and procedures for dealing with drug related incidents. Revised Edition 1996.

Managing and Making Policy for Drug Related Incidents in Schools SCODA 1999

Drugs: Guidance for schools DfES Feb 04.

DFE and ACPO drugs Advice for Schools September 2012