



# The Consortium Trust

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## Drug Education Policy

### 1.0 Aims and objectives

- 1.1** We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drug education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.
- 1.2** In this policy the word 'drug' is understood to include any substance which has a narcotic or stimulant effect, including tobacco, tobacco-derived products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, illegal drugs and solvents.
- 1.3** The objectives of our drug education programme are:
- > to provide children with knowledge and information about illicit 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 help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
  - > to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
  - > 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;
  - > to show that taking illicit drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
  - > to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, local governing body and staff.
  - > Discuss openly with pupils the effects of legal drugs and laws surrounding them, including alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, medicinal drugs and 'legal highs'.

## 2 Organisation

- 2.0** We regard drug education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs.

For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking or alcohol abuse, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

- 2.1** Drug education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Upper Key Stage 2, where the children are taught about illicit drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by health professionals. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or other professionals in this field.



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Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle. The key elements of all PSHE lessons will be included in the half-termly curriculum overview available on the school's website.

**2.2** The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse, the police liaison officer or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

## **3 The role of the Academy Head**

**3.0** It is the responsibility of the Academy Head to ensure that staff and parents are informed about the drug education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Academy Head's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

**3.1** The Academy Head will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drug education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

**3.2** The Academy Head will monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **4 The role of local governance**

**4.1** The locality committee has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drug education. The LC members will support the Academy Head in following these guidelines. LC members will inform and consult with parents about the drug education policy and will also liaise with the Trust and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

## **5 The role of parents**

**5.0** The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of 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;
- > invite parents to view the materials used to teach drug education in our school;
- > answer any questions parents may have about the drug education their child receives in school;
- > take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drug education in the school;
- > encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary; Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drug education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.



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## 6. Monitoring and review

- 6.1 The Locality Committee, on an annual basis will monitor the drug education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the local governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification.
- 6.2 The Locality Committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drug education programme and comments will be recorded. Governors require the Academy Head to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drug education programme taught in the school.

## Document Control

### Changes History

Version	Date	Amended By	Details of Change
2	31/07/2017	Tamsin Little	Outline curriculum information available to parents in half-termly overview documents noted in 2.2
3	8/05/18	Tamsin Little	Added 1.2 statement about the use of the word 'drug' Corrected throughout the use of the word drugs to drug. Illegal has been changed to illicit where indicated.
4	18/10/18	Robin Chew	Added e-cigarettes

### Approval

Name	Job Title	Signed	Date
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	21.6.18
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	21.6.18

### Equality Impact Assessment

Date	Name	Details

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