

MEADFURLONG SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION AND

DRUGS MISUSE POLICY

September 1994
Updated January 1997
Updated October 2001

INTRODUCTION

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs nor alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.
- Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use, and misuse, substances is rising, it is important to recognise the larger number who do not misuse substances over a long period.

AIMS

We aim:

- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- There is no right of parental withdrawal from drug education.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

The head or a delegated member of staff will:

- Deal with any medical incident as a matter of emergency.

- Take possession of any suspected controlled substance found in the school or on a young person and verify with an appropriate agency the nature of the substance.
- Inform the police and Governors.
- Inform the Police Liaison Officer or Beat Officer that the school has illegal substances on the premises, secure in a sharps container locked in the school safe for collection by a Police Representative. Keep a witnessed record of all actions.
- Ensure that a discreet investigation is made to ascertain who is involved, which pupils or groups of pupils, parents or family members.
- Inform only those who need to know at that stage.

Pupil Sanctions

The agreed Governors sanctions for drug related offences are as follows:

- For the sale of drugs on school premises or the repetition of a more minor offence permanent exclusion will result.
- For offering drugs, but not for payment, on school premises, being in school under the influence of an illegal substance, possession of drugs on school premises, purchasing drugs on school premises or acting as a go-between in the sale and purchase of drugs would result in a fixed term exclusion.
- Any of the above however could result in a permanent exclusion should there be reports of other non-drug related disciplinary problems.
- It is quite likely that following a permanent exclusion the pupil would transfer to another school. Any such pupils who might transfer to Meadfurlong as a result of such an abuse would be monitored following a programme of training and awareness raising of staff responsible. Should subsequent progress not be made or it is deemed more desirable for a pupil to receive part time educational provision through pupil referral units then this would be recommended

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

- We aim to provide an environment in which pupils feel safe and where they feel their opinions are valued.
- Teaching and learning styles will employ:-

Role play
 Discussion
 Imaginative writing
 Traditional imparting of knowledge
 Constructive use of video
 Debating
 Group work
 Circle time
 Research
 Educational games

SCHEME OF WORK

- Pupils within Year 5 have drugs education included within their Good Health programme and then this is revisited in Year 7 as appropriate and related to other subjects. Refer to the Science Policy for outline Schemes of Work plus PSHE & Citizenship Policy.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING:

- Only the statutory parts of the curriculum delivered through the Science Schemes of Work will be formally assessed by teachers.

Pupil Records

- Information on a pupil's record in connection with drugs related offences should be limited to a three year period only after which they should be removed.

Police Involvement

- Where there is reasonable suspicion of a drugs related offence by a pupil, the Police will always be informed. If there is any doubt on whether or not suspicious substances are illegal then pupil sanctions will be delayed until confirmation has been received by the Police.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

- It is the intention of the Governing Body to review this policy in the light of the LEA's interpretation of DfES guidance to be produced in January 2004.
- The PSHE Co-ordinator has the responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Drug Education programme within the school.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- This school is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all pupils. Drugs education and PSHE is an entitlement for all pupils regardless of their own particular beliefs, gender, social class or ability and the curriculum and learning approaches are planned with this in mind.

RESOURCES

- Compass Young People's Substance Misuse Service – for information and support ring or text Jo 07919368083 or Rachel 07789400359
- QCA Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Education – QCA 01787 31205 - (fax)
- MK Advisory Staff
- School Nurse, Milton Keynes Hospital Campus, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LE Tel: 01908 661487 Fax: 01908 660539
Health Improvement Team, Shipley Court, Marsh End Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8EA
Tel: 01908 217121 Fax: 01908 216748
- Drugs Education – a practical guide for Primary School teachers.