

Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy
(Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship)

The School Aims

Bell Farm aims to work in partnership with parents in providing a secure and stimulating environment in which children can develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually through a range of experiences and opportunities. We do this by:

- Promoting an environment in which the child feels secure, respected and able to make a valued contribution.
- Encouraging the development of positive learning attitudes that will provide pupils with the confidence to resolve problems and to persevere with new and challenging learning opportunities.
- Encouraging the development of personal skills, so that children can make good judgements and reasoned responses in both their work and relationships.

Introduction

The aim of drug education is to equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to make informed, healthy choices and decisions, and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse. A drug is any substance taken into the body which alters the way the body functions, either emotionally, physically or mentally. This includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines as well as illicit substances. Drug and alcohol abuse is a complex social problem which can only be effectively combated, through a co-ordinated multi-agency strategy. Schools have an important role to play in this task. The school recognises the need to deal with the broad range of drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the lives of our pupils and others involved in the life of a school. Drug education is provided within a broad programme of PSHE where wider issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility are addressed.

Part 1

Objectives

At Bell Farm we aim to provide children with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values and skills they need in order to reach their potential as individuals, and within the community. The aims of Drugs and Alcohol Education are to enable children to:

- develop the skills needed to resist pressure to drugs misuse
- maintain healthy lifestyles and take part in positive activities
- access accurate information about drugs and the law relating to them;
- take opportunities to examine attitudes and values to drug use;
- increase their understanding of the possible consequences of use/misuse of drugs;
- identify sources of appropriate personal support
- be independent and responsible members of the school community, playing a positive role and demonstrating a respect for others;
- develop skills, eg. assertiveness, decision-making and negotiation in order to make informed choices about substances.

Learning

At Bell Farm we use a range of teaching and learning styles. We encourage active learning through discussion, sharing experiences, raising concerns, collaborative activities and reflection within a secure environment so that children are able to explore their own and others' attitudes, values and skills sensitively. This enables pupils to place new learning in the context of previous experience, to explore currently held personal and cultural beliefs and values, to apply new learning to other situations, and to make and act on informed choices. Children undertake appropriate drug education in each year group and key messages are reinforced, e.g. keeping healthy, keeping safe. We recognise the involvement of the whole school community, including staff, governors, pupils, parents and relevant outside speakers.

Teaching

The basis of our Drugs and Alcohol Education programme is taken from QCA guidelines, along with guidance from the DfES and Surrey County Council. We have developed our scheme of work to incorporate both discrete units of study and areas which connect with other curriculum topics. (The scheme of work can be found in a separate document.) Knowledge, understanding skills and attitudes are explored using a spiral curriculum approach. A variety of teaching methods is used appropriate to the needs and maturity of the pupils, e.g. brainstorming, role play, group discussion etc. The teacher's role is to encourage a questioning attitude and shared learning. Issues and topics are revisited so pupils can develop knowledge and skills appropriate to their maturity. Visiting speakers from the community, e.g. health promotion specialists, community police officers and a teacher from Rydens School, make a valuable contribution to the programme.

Curriculum Links

Specific drug related information is also provided within the statutory science curriculum. Developing literacy skills of speaking and listening are crucial in taking part and developing understanding of drugs related issues.

Assessment for Learning

Teachers assess the children's work in Drugs Education by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and by the RIDE booklet / written work.

Resources

We keep resources for Drugs and Alcohol Education in a central store and in each classroom. Our resources offer a range of activities, based on successful teaching and learning styles, giving accurate and balanced facts, not aiming to shock or horrify. They provide guiding on the knowledge, understanding and skills required to deliver the materials and show how the materials incorporate pupils' existing drug awareness. They also recognise the importance of parental understanding, support and involvement

Equal Opportunities

We teach Drugs and Alcohol Education to all children, regardless of their ability. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of children with learning difficulties. When teaching Drugs and Alcohol Education we take into account the targets set for children in their Individual Education Plans. We ensure that young people from all backgrounds, whatever their culture, gender or race, have access to appropriate programmes. The content and approaches are appropriate to the needs and maturity of pupils, reflecting pupils local circumstances, current knowledge and attitudes towards drugs.

Parents

It is important that a drug and alcohol education programme has the support of parents and the wider community. Parents are invited to be involved in homework tasks with children in Year 5, during the RIDE programme.

Monitoring

The PSHE subject leader will monitor delivery of the programme through observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision. The subject leader supports colleagues by assisting with planning, by providing information about current developments and by replenishing and adding to resources. Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness will be conducted on the basis of pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes, staff meetings to review and share experience and assessment using end of Key stage statements. There will be regular review and evaluation of policies and programmes.

Part 2

The school's position to legally available substances on site

Tobacco

The school operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the building and grounds.

This policy applies to employees, parents and visitors.

Alcohol

The head teacher must be consulted and permission obtained before arranging any functions at which alcohol may be consumed. Alcohol should not be consumed at any function where pupils are present but this is left to the careful discretion of the head teacher for each event.

Solvents

The school recognises that many ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed. White board markers should be a low odour brand. Only low-odour correcting fluid is permitted in school.

Medication: over the counter and prescribed drugs

Where it is not possible for parents to administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours, parents/guardians should deliver them to the school office. The school will not dispense paracetamol. Asthma reliever inhalers are kept by pupils for easy and immediate access, or in the office (staff are made aware of whom this applies to in order to monitor proper use). Teaching staff are not obliged to administer medicines. **This statement should be read in conjunction with the full policy. There is a separate policy for the Administering Medicines to Children.**

School excursions (day and residential)

The school's policy on drugs applies to all school excursions.

The school's position in relation to substance abusing parents

The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose alcohol and drug use is problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally.

Recording of Incidents

A record shall be kept of all substance misuse related incidents and the action taken about them. This is a means of keeping track of the number of incidents occurring. It is for internal school use.

Review of this policy

This policy will be reviewed in keeping with the Policy Review Cycle.

