



Drug and Substance Policy

Issued: November 2014

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Headteacher: Russell Leigh _____

Chair of Governors: Duncan Lochhead _____

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsibly care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition of a Drug:

A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as, alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

External Guidance:

Dorchester, St Birinus C of E Primary School actively cooperates and seeks support with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services and OCC to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of drug use and miscues. In our planning and responses to drug issues we take careful account of local and national guidance, in particular to *Drugs: Guidance for Schools* (DfES Ref: 0092 2004).

Aims:

Dorchester, St Birinus C of E Primary School aim to:

- Clarify the schools approach, legal requirements and responsibilities surrounding drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- Teach drug education through our PSHE curriculum;
- Maintain the safety and well-being of pupils, staff and visitors;
- Give appropriate attention to all drugs: legal drugs, medicines, solvents, socially disapproved and illegal substances;
- Enable staff to manage drugs on the school premises and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interest of those involved.

Role of Head Teacher:

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for incident management and liaison with the governing body and outside agencies. The Head Teacher should therefore be notified immediately of any drugs related incident.

Teaching:

Drug education is taught primarily through two areas of the curriculum. These are:

Science

- In Upper KS2 pupils should be taught that some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body

and **PSHE**

- Throughout both key stages, pupils should be encouraged to consider how choices that they make affect themselves and those around them, and how to deal with difficult situations.

Pupils with SEN may be more vulnerable to drugs misuse than others. They may also be taking medication and it becomes all the more important to stress the distinction between the use and misuse of drugs.

Drugs on School Premises¹:

All illegal substances are forbidden from the school premises.

The school is a designated ‘No Smoking’ area for staff, parents and visitors.

Alcohol may only be consumed on the school premises for events organised by staff, governors or PTA, which take place after the end of the school day. The organisers are responsible for ensuring only those over 18 consume alcohol.

Health and safety checks of the school environment will ensure that any drug paraphernalia found, particularly syringes and needles, are cleared away safely and legally.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, reducing the risk of pupils having contact with them. An up to date COSHH form highlights potentially hazardous substances.

Medicines on the school premises²:

Parents must notify staff in writing of any medicines which need to be taken during school hours. To enable teachers and/or teaching assistants to administer prescription medicines parents must complete the appropriate medicine form. Medicines are not kept in school, except asthma inhalers, which will be kept by the child, or the class teacher. A medicine policy is in place.

In certain cases prescribed emergency medicines (e.g. for anaphylactic shock) may be kept on the school premises. These are to be kept in specifically allocated places out of children’s reach and are only to be administered by named, trained staff.

Drug Incident Guidance where substance misuse or supply is suspected:

- Staff should inform the Head who will then assess the legal requirements, the involvement of outside agencies, the types of behaviour and the proposed

¹ School premises include the buildings and grounds within the schools boundary fence. For the purpose of this policy, transport to and from premises, and the premises on which school trips take place, are included as school premises for all adults and children involved in the excursions.

² As above

school response. Health, welfare and Safety procedures including safe handling of suspect substances must be adhered to.

- In each case, a child's record and circumstances should be taken into account, their age, the substances involved, the location of the incident, nature of the offence/incident, attitude of pupil and what help can be offered.
- The consequences of such incidents involving pupils will follow broadly the same procedures as laid down in the school behaviour policy. If incidents involve illegal drugs, the Head will follow guidelines set out in *Drugs: Guidance for Schools* (DfES Ref: 0092 2004).

Responses to Drug/Substance Related Incidents:

- Confidentiality – If a child/adult discloses that he/she is taking drugs, the designated member of staff for safeguarding should be informed immediately.
- If at any time a child/adult appears to be losing consciousness, possibly due to a drug overdose, misuse or admitted overdose without visible symptoms then:
 - Summon a first aider – do not leave the person alone;
 - Check airways are not blocked and place person in recovery position;
 - Phone 999 for an ambulance;
 - Keep person warm to prevent shock;
 - Ring family immediately.