Wise Owl Trust

Drugs Education Policy

Version 1

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WISE OWL TRUST DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

The Wise Owl Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Introduction

Research has shown that by the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience.

Together research shows that upto 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The figure also suggests that the first age of experimentation is decreased and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both illegal and legal drugs. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' stated that schools and academies had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimizing their health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- Increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- Reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- Reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

At the Wise Owl Trust we believe that drugs education should provide:

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to other adults besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in a challenging and safe atmosphere where they feel secure enough to play a full and active part

We aim to provide a consistent approach throughout our academies and to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. At the Wise Owl Trust we encourage children to develop positive attitudes and values and to ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed when dealing with incidents/equipment related to drugs and drug use.

Welfare of pupils is paramount and procedures and policies are designed to reflect this commitment.

Objectives

- To develop children's personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions
- To encourage children to value themselves and others
- To encourage children to help and support others
- To encourage children to work cooperatively in active learning and group work
- To clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false knowledge and beliefs
- To help children deal with the effect of media coverage of issues relating to drugs
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drug use
- To ensure all staff are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use at any academy within the Wise Owl Trust

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self esteem

Definition

At the Wise Owl Trust 'drugs' include any substance which affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Medicines
- Illegal substances

The role of the principal

It is the responsibility of the principal of each academy to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the principal's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The principal will liaise with external agencies regarding the 'schools drugs education programme' and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of this policy and work within its' framework.

The role of governors

The governing bodies of each academy have the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the principal in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the local authority and health organisations so that the academy's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The role of parents

Each academy is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our academy through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective, we will:

- Inform parents about the academy's drugs education policy and practice
- Invite parents to view any materials used to teach drugs education in our academy
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives during the school day
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education during the school day
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children

Resources
Drugs education is part of the planned PSHE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of science and through circle time. The PSHE framework outlines the areas to be covered each year. The national curriculum guidelines for science require that children are taught:

- At KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines
- At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

Cross-curricular links
Drugs education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for PHSE, and enshrined into the values, which are embodied in the schools' ethos.
There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Teaching
Our approach to drugs education is one which children are given information in the belief that increased knowledge about drugs and the risks will empower children to make informed and safe decisions. We approach this in a sensitive manner appropriate to the age and experiences of the children concerned. Teaching:

- Is well resourced
- Reflects the needs and experiences of pupils
- Uses a range of teaching methods including group work, discussions, videos and outside speakers
- Reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles
- Is flexible and relevant
- Is in the context of a wider PSHE programme
- Is interesting and stimulating
- Is informed

Outside visitors
If outside speakers/theatre groups etc are used in any aspect of the drugs education programme, their contribution will be properly planned. They will support the work of the teacher who will meet them beforehand to plan the work and explain the policy on drugs education. Teachers will be present and involved in all sessions and will evaluate the work afterwards. The teacher has overall responsibility for the session and the work planned

Training, monitoring and evaluation
Teaching and learning is monitored in relation to the policy and the academy's teaching and learning policy. The PSHE coordinator has responsibility for monitoring drug education, teaching and learning in conjunction with the principals.

Managing drug related incidents
Incidents are managed in the context of the academy's commitment to:

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be as risk
- The law concerning drugs

The principal retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents in conjunction with the drug coordinator. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent or member of staff.

The academy's policy is that 'no individuals should be under the influence of drugs (as detailed in this policy) while on the school premises (within the boundary of the external playground wall) unless a doctor's note indicates that this does not affect the individuals capacity to perform their duties, take care of children in their charge, or in the case of pupils, take part in lessons.

Appendices, 1,2 and 3 outline the procedures to be followed in individual circumstances. All incidents are recorded in the incident monitoring log.

All members of the community are aware of these procedures and the implication for individuals.

Each incident will be dealt with on an individual basis.

The academies will follow local government guidelines for handling and disposal of drug related paraphernalia.

Young children who are deemed to be at risk will be treated in relation to the academy's policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection.

APPENDIX 1

ILLEGAL DRUGS FOUND ON PREMISES

Steps to take:

Advise principal or designated person

Keep in a secure place

Phone local police to inform/collect

The Trustees will be notified of all reported incidents

Drugs Awareness:

- *Do not touch, sniff or handle*

APPENDIX 2

PUPIL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Steps to take:

Advise principal or designated person

Seek emergency medical treatment

Investigate possession

Child is in a secure, safe place

Inform parents

Inform other agencies as necessary

The Trustees will be notified of all reported incidents

APPENDIX 3

PARENTS/CARERS or GOVERNORS/STAFF UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Steps to take:

Advise principal or designated person

Consider appropriate risk action

Dependent upon circumstances:

- Phone police
- Ask to leave premises
- Contact social services

The Trustees will be notified of all reported incidents

No alcohol, under any circumstances is permitted to be drunk by a member of staff on academy premises at any time