



Potley Hill Primary School Drug Incident Policy

We are committed to the prevention and intervention of drug misuse, including alcohol and tobacco. All staff are made aware of the vulnerable groups and the risk factors that may lead to future drug misuse. Possible school actions for specific school interventions have been identified according to risk factors. We teach healthy life styles, attitudes and skills which enable children to resist the abuse of drugs.

Guidelines

The vulnerable groups are identified as:

- Children who are 'looked after'
- Children who are persistently absent
- Children excluded from school
- Children who have experienced sexual abuse
- Children of parents with drug problems

Identified risk factors are:

- Chaotic home environment
- Inappropriate and/or aggressive classroom behaviour
- Wider behaviour challenges/concerns
- Poor peer relationships
- Low self-esteem

Protective factors (school enabled) tend to lessen or outweigh the risk factors. Those identified are:

- Successful school experiences
- A caring relationship with at least one adult
- Strong bonds with local community activities

Potley Hill Primary School seeks to help pupils develop specific protective factors through planned activities in the Science and PDL curriculum and through the ethos of the school, including the School Values and Rules.

Factors include:

- Supportive and safe relationships
- The ability to cope well with academic and social demands at school
- Strong and supportive social networks
- Good social skills
- Realistic self-knowledge and realistic esteem
- A good knowledge of legal and illegal drugs, their effects and their risks
- How to access help and information

The PDL Manager is responsible for drug education and will ensure that the curriculum coverage reflects the required drug-related content at an age-appropriate level.

Drug Education Programme

The purpose of the drug education programme is;

- To give children accurate information

- To enable them to understand the consequences of drug misuse, at an age-appropriate level
- To acquire life skills which enable them to make informed choices.

We will make use of appropriate outside agencies. The school nurse may also be asked to input specific issues such as the role of medicines in promoting health. At Potley Hill, drug education is incorporated within the 'jigsaw' scheme.

Procedure in the event of drug related incidents

On Site is defined as the school buildings and all the grounds.

Any incident relating to drugs which occurs on the school site, during a visit off site on a school day, or on a residential visit, will be dealt with using the procedures specified in the Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Policy. Any concerns regarding drug use should be reported to the DSL, even those stemming from hearsay. This will enable a record to be compiled of teachers' concerns and where necessary for help and support to be offered to the child. All concerns will be addressed as outlined in the Child Protection Policy and logged on CPOMs accordingly.

Suspicious Behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be recorded so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

Finding Substances

If children are found in possession of tobacco, vapes, alcohol, glue, solvents, prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

The well being of the child is paramount. In all instances:

- Separate the child from the rest of the group
- Decide and implement the next best steps in terms of the child's welfare
- Inform parents

If a harmful and/or illegal substance is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe-keeping in the presence of a witness (e.g. locked cupboard). If the substance is believed to be illegal the police must be informed.

If a substance is found on a child the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded on CPOMs including:

- The date and time of retrieval
- The size and appearance of the substance
- The names of those concerned
- The action taken

If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered the items should be handled with care. The incident should be recorded and the items such as needles and syringes should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the parents should be informed.

Searching

Storage areas on the site may be searched by the head teacher or their representative. The search must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named child if this applies. Staff should not search a child's property or person but should try to persuade the child voluntarily to produce the substance by asking them to turn out their pockets or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a child a police officer will be required

and the parents must be informed immediately. Police officers will only carry out searches when there are strong grounds to do so.

Supplying Illegal Substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police and parents will be involved in such circumstances.

Media

In the event of a drug related incident attracting the attention of the media, the following points should be observed;

Any member of school staff being approached must refer the reporter to the Headteacher.

Every effort is made to protect the children at school from media attention and no member of the media is allowed to talk to children at school.

Immediate advice is sought from the Press Officer at Hampshire County Council

Their advice is: "Always give yourself time to think out a careful response and check facts. Never say 'No comment,' it always sounds suspicious. Take a contact name and number. Tell the reporter you will ring back but remember they work to short deadlines."

Medical Procedures

Any emergency requires an immediate assessment of the situation. The first priority must be to ensure the safety of the individual concerned.

Drug related incidents may result in intoxication, acute intoxication, physical collapse or unconsciousness. An ambulance must be called following any of these circumstances.

These procedures should be followed;

- Remain calm
- Decide whether emergency help is needed, if so send for an ambulance
- Ensure the patient is not left alone
- Where possible involve a trained first aider
- Inform the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team
- Keep any tablet or substances found
- Keep a sample of the vomit if they have been sick
- Write down and record the details of the incident as soon as is possible

If immediate first aid is required, the school's First Aid Policy should be consulted and adhered to.

Related Policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

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