



Together we learn, together we succeed

# Drug Awareness Policy

Approved: January 2018

Reviewed: January 2020

## Aims

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle;

Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people;

We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

## Objectives

The objectives of our drug awareness education are:

- ✿ To help the children understand the difference between medicines, prescribed drugs and illegal drugs;
- ✿ To provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- ✿ To enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- ✿ To help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- ✿ To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- ✿ To help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- ✿ To show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- ✿ To ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner that has been agreed by governors and staff.



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## **Teaching and Learning**

We regard drug awareness education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine PSHE lessons / class discussion sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

- Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. Elements of Drug Awareness education take place throughout the school once every two years. In KS1 the CASE (Children and Safety Education) programme teaches children about the importance of not touching needles and focuses on the safe disposal of needles found in the locality;
- The main teaching about drugs takes place in Upper Key Stage 2, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them through the DARE (Drugs Abuse, Resistant Education) programme, which is delivered by external DARE officers. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the Local Authority and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority;
- The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional.

The teaching methods employed within drug education are as important as the content being taught. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future.

The teaching skills employed should also enable children to practise their skills of negotiation, decision making, assertion, research, problem solving and collaboration. Pupils should be given a range of opportunities to explore and develop their own attitudes and values, including exploring their own and other's prejudices, engaging in discussion, preparing presentations, challenging stereotypes, consider evidence. For example children examine the arguments for and against legalising cannabis, take on roles of interested parties and then have a debate in role to decide the outcome of the question.

Within lessons, teachers must create an atmosphere where children can feel;

- Comfortable and trusted
- Able to contribute
- Able to use language as an exploration tool
- Supported
- Able to support each other
- Able to express their feelings



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## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **The role of the Head Teacher**

- To ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively;
- To ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- To liaise with external agencies, school nurse, DARE, CASE and Sure Start, regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework;
- To monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

### **The role of Governors**

To support the head teacher in ensuring that drugs education is delivered in line with this policy.

### **The role of Parents**

The school 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 Rusper Primary School through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. Parents are invited to attend special assemblies at the end of the CASE and DARE programmes to enable children to share with their parents the power of the learning that these important programmes offer.

In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- allow parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school if requested;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- The PSHE link governor will monitor both the quality and impact of the CASE and DARE programmes on the children's learning;
- This policy will be reviewed every two years;
- The complaints committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded