



Drugs Education Policy

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1 Aims and Objectives

At Brookside Primary School, we aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sorts 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 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.

The objectives of our Drugs Education programme are:

- To provide children with knowledge and information about legal and 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 legal and illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices

2 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 The Role of the Class Teacher

We regard Drugs Education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach pupils 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. 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. In Year 6 the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. The school uses the DARE programme with the Year 6 children. Lessons that focus on Drugs Education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle. Sometimes the class teacher will seek support from the School Nurse or another health professional.

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. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

2.2 The Role of the School's Leadership

It is the responsibility of the school's leadership to ensure that staff and Parents / Carers are informed about this Drugs Education Policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the school leadership's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The school leadership will liaise with external agencies 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.

The school leadership will monitor the policy and report to the Governing Body, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

2.3 The Role of Governors

The Governing Body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on Drugs Education. Governors will support the school leadership in following these guidelines and Parents / Carers will be informed and consulted about the Drugs Education Policy. Governors will also liaise with the Local Authority and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

2.4 The Role of Parents / Carers

Brookside School is well aware that the primary role in children's Drugs Education lies with Parents / Carers. We wish to build a positive and

supporting relationship with the Parents / Carers of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we will:

- inform Parents / Carers about the school Drugs Education Policy and practice
- invite Parents / Carers to view the materials used to teach Drugs Education in our school
- answer any questions Parents / Carers may have about the Drugs Education their child receives in school
- take seriously any issue which Parents / Carers raise with teachers or Governors about this policy or the arrangements for Drugs Education in the school
- inform Parents / Carers about the best practice known with regard to Drugs Education so that the Parents / Carers can support the key messages being given to children at school

3 Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will regularly monitor the Drugs Education Policy and will take into serious consideration any representation from Parents / Carers about the Drugs Education Programme.

4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

At Brookside School, we aim to ensure that no member of the school community experiences harassment, less favourable treatment or discrimination within the learning environment because of their age; any disability they may have; their ethnicity, colour or national origin; their gender; their religion or beliefs.

We value the diversity of individuals within our school and do not discriminate against anyone because of 'differences'. We believe that all our children matter and we value their families too. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when devising and implementing school policies and procedures.

5 Policy Review

This policy will be regularly reviewed by the Governing Body and updated routinely in line with Brookside Primary School's Policy Schedule.