

Mason Moor Primary School



Drugs Policy 2017

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Mason Moor Primary

Drug education and related incidents policy

Rationale

At Mason Moor Primary School, we are committed to the health and safety of its pupils, staff and visitors. This policy is an integral part of the Healthy & Happy and Sex and Relationships policies. In response to concerns about the consequences of drug use and misuse, we believe that our children need to be educated. The term drugs includes legal and illegal drugs and medications, whether prescribed or not. It also includes alcohol, volatile substances, if misused and tobacco.

Links to national policies

This policy has been drawn up in line with the document "Drugs: Guidance for schools (DFES 2004) and the Healthy Schools Initiative.

Aims

At Mason Moor, we aim:

- To develop a safe environment for everyone involved in the life of the school.
- To develop self-confidence.
- To enable children to make healthy, informed choices.
- To explore attitudes and values about drugs.
- To consider the consequences of risk taking.
- To increase knowledge and understanding, by providing accurate information about drugs.
- To develop appropriate skills e.g. communication, assertiveness and decision-making.
- To become aware of peer pressure and how to deal with it.
- To be able to take responsibility for their own actions.

These aims will be achieved through the Healthy & Happy, Citizenship and Sex and Relationship education programs already in place (see Healthy & Happy scheme of work). It applies to everyone who plays any role in school (children, all staff including contractors, visitors, parents and governors etc) and applies at all times, including everyone participating in school activities and trips off site. The class teachers will deliver them and, where suitable, outside agencies, using a variety of different teaching strategies that will recognise and build on the children's own level of knowledge.

Mason Moor works very closely with outside agencies:

- Police (Getting it Right)
- Primary Care Trust (School Nurse)
- Local Authority
- Youth Workers
- Star Project
- Childline
- School nurses
- PCSO's

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks'

Staff with key responsibility for drugs issues

The role of overseeing and co-ordinating drug education and the implementation of the drug policy is taken by a senior member of staff, as part of the role of PHSE co-ordination. This member of staff is Jo Mumford.

There is also a nominated school governor with responsibility for drug policy (safeguarding) within the school.

These two members of staff will meet up annually to review the policy or as needed, in response to any serious incidents, which may indicate the need for change or review of the policy. The Head teacher and the governing body maintain oversight of the drug policy.

Drug related incidents in school

The school will respond to the following incidents, in the most appropriate way:

- Rumours of legal or illegal drugs being used by children.
- Reports of legal or illegal drugs being used by children.
- Use of drugs by adults or children on the premises.
- Children talking about drug use in school.
- Children bringing drugs into school.
- Finding drugs or drug paraphernalia within the school grounds.
- Children asking difficult questions about drugs.
- Staff concerns about individuals or families.

Procedures

The school will keep a record of all drug related incidents. Each entry will be dated and a clear distinction will be made between evidence, hearsay and suspicious behaviour. An adult in school will record information and complete a drugs incident sheet. This will be given to the Head teacher and kept in the school, separate from the pupils' records. The log will be reviewed regularly and any information that is no longer relevant will be removed. The Senior Management Team will deal with any information that needs to be passed on to other authorities or parents.

Finding substances

If a substance is discovered which is suspected of being harmful, illegal, or deserving of investigation, then it will be carefully removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness. If the substance is known or suspected of being illegal, then the welfare and well-being of the child will determine the action that will be taken.

The following information will be recorded on a Drug Incident Sheet:

- The date and time of retrieval.
- The size and appearance of the substance (photos will be taken if necessary).
- The names of all those people concerned.

- What action was or will be taken.

The pupil's parents or carers will be informed of the action taken.

Staff will only carry out searches of a person or their property with the consent of the parent/carer and/or child, depending on the age and capacity of the child. This should not take place without the agreement and presence of the Head teacher and every effort must be made to have the parent/carer present. Searches should be used as a last resort in situations where there is suspicion of possession of prescribed medicine or drugs.

If any drugs are found discarded on site, then the police must be phoned and the area cordoned off, until further guidance and advice from the police.

Finding paraphernalia

In the event of discovering any equipment, gear or paraphernalia associated with drug misuse, these items will be handled with care. The incident must be recorded as stated above and the items will be confiscated. Guidelines for collection and storage of a drugs are contained in DFES guidance; page 60 and the police should be informed. Needles and syringes should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate service.

If this is removed from a pupil, then the pupil's parents or carers should be informed, unless this is detrimental to the pupil's well-being.

Finding drug misuse

If a pupil is found in possession of a substance suspected of being illegal, direct supervision will be necessary to ensure that the substance is not disposed of or swallowed.

If a child is found in possession of substances not considered illegal (e.g. tobacco), then the parents will be informed and invited into school to discuss the matter further. A warning will be issued and in the event of a second incident, further action will be taken and appropriate support and guidance will be offered.

The school will consider any incident individually and recognises a variety of responses may be necessary. We seek to balance the interests of the individual pupil, other school members, the local community, parents and carers.

Confidentiality concerning drug use cannot be guaranteed. The Head teacher has overall responsibility for managing drug related incidents. She will take responsibility for liaison with the media, in conjunction with Southampton City Council Education Department.

Children disclosing information about drug use within the home

Teachers are sensitive to particular issues that children may discuss in class. The seriousness of any disclosures and the impact on the child will need to be assessed by the class teacher in consultation with the Head teacher and reference to the Child Protection policy, if there are grounds to suspect significant harm to the child.

Medical emergency due to drug use on the premises

An ambulance must be called immediately. Any evidence should also be collected (including packets, needles, pills, vomit and anything the person involved says) to inform paramedics. Follow standard first aid procedures and ensure the person involved is not left unattended. The Head teacher must be informed and witness statements made, by all involved.

Confidentiality

Information regarding to individual pupils, should only be shared on a need to know basis within the school. Parents/carers will be informed in all instances involving their child unless it would place the child at risk by doing so. The Child Protection policy must also be used as a basis for information sharing and decision-making, if it is felt the child may be in need or at risk of significant harm.

Links with other policies

- Teaching & Learning policy
- Sex and Relationship policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Equal Opportunities policy

Staff development

The Healthy & Happy curriculum lead will develop schemes of work which will support drug education, within the context of the Healthy & Happy curriculum. Training needs will be identified and INSET opportunities provided. Also, a process of monitoring and evaluation will follow school procedures.
