

FORMAL DOCUMENT
for
COURT de WYCK Church of England Primary School

Topic: Drugs	Document Type: Policy
Related Documents: Behaviour, PHSE&C, Science, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, Exclusion procedures (LA)	
Date of current Review: Autumn 2007	Reviewed by (position): Performance Ctte.
Name: A. Harwood	Signature: RD Clerk to Committee
Frequency of reviews: Annual	Date for Next Review: Autumn 2008
Recommended time of year for review: Terms 1 - 2	Legal Requirement? No

Document History:

Issue Number	Author/Owner	Date Modified	Date Approved by Governors	Comments
1	Performance Ctte.	Spring '06		New Format
2	Performance Ctte.	27/10/07	30/10/07	Reviewed and updated

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Schools, alongside parents and the range of agencies working with pupils and their families, have an important role to play in the delivery of the Government's strategies on illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The National Drugs Strategy aims to reduce the harm that illegal drugs cause to society, and to prevent today's young people from becoming tomorrow's problematic drug-users.

2.0 Purposes

The School will aim to:

- 2.1 enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices about drugs;
- 2.2 provide accurate information about substances;
- 2.3 increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- 2.4 provide clear guidelines and support for pupils, parents and staff.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 For the purpose of this policy, "drugs" includes both legal and illegal substances. Examples of legal substances include medicines, tobacco, alcohol and solvents. Illegal drugs are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and subsequent amendments. The Act does not cover solvent misuse. The main controlled drugs that are misused are:
- 3.1.1 opiates such as heroin,
 - 3.1.2 stimulants such as cocaine, amphetamines and Ecstasy,
 - 3.1.3 tranquillisers such as temazepam,
 - 3.1.4 hallucinogens such as LSD,
 - 3.1.5 cannabinoids such as cannabis.

4.0 Statements of Principle

- 4.1 The School is committed to the health, safety and welfare of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- 4.2 The School believes it has a duty to inform and educate its pupils on the nature of drugs and the consequences of drug use and misuse.
- 4.3 The School does not accept drugs being brought onto the premises by pupils, their use or misuse nor the illegal supply of these substances. This applies also to drugs that may be legal

for adults, but are illegal for children (e.g. tobacco and alcohol.). Incidents will be treated very seriously.

- 4.4 The School believes that effective communication and co-operation with parents and other agencies is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

5.0 Guidelines

- 5.1 Drugs information shall be presented to and discussed with pupils throughout the School, alongside the relevant aspects of the science curriculum, or when the topic arises naturally from conversation or debate.
- 5.2 The School will make use of drugs awareness and education programmes that may be run for pupils within North Somerset by the Health Authority, the Community Drugs Misuse Forum, or other officially recognised voluntary groups.
- 5.3 The School will bring to the attention of parents any drugs-awareness sessions for adults that may be run by the LA or other recognised agencies.

6.0 Responding to drug related incidents

- 6.1 If pupils see any drug or "apparatus" on the School premises, they must not touch it, but report it immediately to a member of staff.
- 6.2 Staff must report any "incident" or disclosure immediately to the Headteacher, who is then responsible for its management (e.g. drugs found on premises, pupils found in possession of drugs, and pupils found using or supplying drugs).
- 6.3 The Headteacher shall respond by balancing the health, safety and welfare interests of the individual pupil, school, family and local community. (See also Appendix A.)

END OF TEXT

Appendix A

A1.0 Checklist for Headteacher when responding to drug-related incidents

- A1.1 The health of the pupils is of paramount importance: always send for first-aid support. If in doubt, call an ambulance.
- The Headteacher should investigate each incident thoroughly, liaise with relevant staff-members and inform parents at the earliest opportunity. The Head will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken. Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort as it may only transfer the problem.
- A1.2 The DfES and LA advice to schools is that the police should be informed whenever an incident involving illegal substances has taken place in school for example when substances suspected of being illegal are found on a pupil or on school premises. The substance may be taken from the pupil and handed to the Police for identification.
- A1.3 The Headteacher, when considering whom to inform, should also consider informing health and social services, EWO, Chair of Governors and LA.
- A1.4 Always document/log all details and actions taken and by whom.
- A1.5 Always protect yourself and wear latex gloves.
- A1.6 When considering disciplinary action, the Headteacher should also refer to the school's Management of Behaviour Policy, and relevant Exclusion procedures of the LA.
- A1.7 Disciplinary sanctions should be applied consistently and be made explicit with regard to possession, use and supply.
- A1.8 The Headteacher should exercise caution when dealing with the media. Appropriate advice and guidance should be sought from the LA press office and legal department.

END OF APPENDIX