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## Introduction

We recognise the increasing drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance.

The term 'drug', throughout this document, includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

Whilst PSHE education remains a non-statutory subject, section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework document states that:

'Schools should seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the national curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.'

This policy applies to school premises, day trips and residential trips.

## Aims and Objectives

The school believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts ( appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

We have prioritised the following objectives:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider/ challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their misuse, benefits and harm.
- To minimise the harm from drugs to pupils.

## **Curriculum Organisation and Delivery**

Drug education will be delivered through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. This will take the form of:

- Discrete curriculum time.
- Through and in other curriculum areas such as science.

Teaching about safety and relationships as part of PSHE education contributes to how schools approach the safeguarding of pupils. It helps them to recognise when they and others are at risk and equips them with the skills, strategies and language they need to take appropriate action.

At Reception and Key Stage 1, children learn about being safe with medicines and household substances, making healthy, informed choices and following safety rules.

At Key Stage 2, children learn about the effects of alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs.

Teaching about drugs is best provided as part of an integrated programme of Personal, Social and Health Education across the key stages. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to ask and answer questions honestly and appropriately. In Reception and both Key Stages we follow the Coram Education SCARF programme. The lessons specific to drug education take place in Term 3, within the Keeping Safe unit.

## **Partnerships**

Kingswood School values its work in partnership with parents and carers and the wider school community. We see this as an essential element of developing this policy and the school's drug education programme. We aim to support parents in their efforts to inform their children. We do this through newsletters and the school website.

## **Equality of Opportunity**

Kingswood School has a commitment to Equal Opportunities and this will be built into all aspects of drug education. We recognise that some pupils with additional needs may need additional support in order to understand the types of behaviour that are/ are not acceptable. Where pupils are taking prescribed medication they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs.

## **Managing Drug Related Incidents**

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but have clear procedures should an incident occur. In all cases the Head teacher should be informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance. Where appropriate, the Head teacher will contact social services and other agencies for support in protecting any pupil from harm.

## **Confiscating a Drug and Disposal**

School staff will not attempt to analyse an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. If the pupil refuses, the Headteacher will contact parents and additional agencies if it is deemed necessary. We will keep a written record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.