



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Date adopted by Governors/Academy:

June 2012

Date to be reviewed:

Summer 2018

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The process of writing this policy has involved consultation between the staff and members of the Governing Body, parents/carers and the School Council. Further guidance was obtained from the Bedford Borough Council PSHCE Consultant and the documents 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' (DfES, February 2004) and 'Drug Advice for Schools (DfE and ACPO, January 2012). The policy is available to view at School on request and on the School website. The policy will apply to all staff, as well as parents/carers and other visitors to the School.

1. Background and context

Henlow Church of England Academy (Henlow Academy) is a fully comprehensive, coeducational school, taking pupils within the 9-13 years age range. Pupils come from the largely rural area of Central Bedfordshire, in particular, the villages of Henlow, Henlow Camp, Meppershall, Clifton and Langford. The intake reflects a wide social mix, although it is ethnically narrow (mainly white European).

2. The Statutory Framework

The School will deliver an approved programme of study in line with the 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' (DfES, February 2004) and 'Drug Advice for Schools (DfE and ACPO, January 2012) and which will be firmly rooted in the framework for Personal, Social, Health Education (QCA, PSHE 2000). It is also in line with recommendations for best practice, as part of the National Healthy School Standard.

This Drugs Education policy describes the teaching and learning we offer to the young people in our School, helping them to understand their own and others' behaviour and to develop skills for informed decision-making. The staff and governors of Henlow Academy believe that Drugs Education is the entitlement of all young people and we are committed to delivering it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education, supporting them in learning about different faiths and cultures, and underpinned by values promoting equality and respect. We believe this is an integral part of each pupil's emergence into adulthood.

3. Terminology

This School defines the term 'drug' as:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave” which therefore includes all of the following:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers).
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

4. Rationale

The purpose of the Henlow Church of England Academy drugs policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the School;
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the School;
- Clarify the School's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drugs education programme;
- Enable staff to manage drugs on School premises and any incidents that occur with confidence and consistency and also in the best interests of those involved;
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drugs education and the values and ethos of the School;
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the School drugs education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs;
- Reinforce the role of the School in contributing to local and national strategies.

We believe drugs education at Henlow Church of England Academy should give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle in their lives now and in the future. This complements the School's aim of providing opportunities for pupils to become more confident and more responsible young people, equipped with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs.

5. The aims of Drugs Education at Henlow Academy

Set in the broader context of PSHCE, our drugs education reflects the whole School aim to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the School community and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Fundamental to our School's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of children with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation.

Our drugs education considers a range of drugs appropriate to the age and stage of the pupils. We recognise that all pupils are entitled to good quality drugs education. At all times, we make it clear to pupils that all non-medical drugs on School premises are unacceptable.

This policy will apply on the School premises and beyond, whenever pupils are within the care of School staff including School trips and educational visits. The School will also have an interest in the health and well being of the children beyond these boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.

Whilst we acknowledge the rising numbers of young people who use and misuse substances, it is important to recognise that many young people are choosing not to do so. We will support their differing needs by helping them to consider choices and consequences in a positive way.

We aim to:

- Listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns to ensure that our drugs education responds to their needs.
- Counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- Enable pupils to identify where help and support can be found.

6. Outcomes

The outcomes will support other whole School aims and provide opportunities for pupils to develop their abilities to communicate, assert themselves and take responsible decisions, identify risks and help others, thereby enhancing their confidence and self-esteem.

We intend to achieve our aims through:-

- Lesson content and teaching approaches which match the needs and maturity of all pupils, including those with special needs and English as an additional language.
- A co-ordinated, integrated and consistent approach to drugs education in the curriculum.
- The involvement of staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils and relevant visitors.
- Working in an integrated way with other local professionals.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.

7. Teaching objectives

Pupils will leave Henlow Church of England Academy with a good knowledge and understanding of legal and illegal drugs, their effects and associated health risks. They will know School rules and the law relating to drugs and where to find advice and support.

(Detailed objectives can be found in the schemes of work.)

8. Curriculum organisation

Drugs education is taught as a subject in PSHCE lessons and may be referred to in many other subjects, as well as in pastoral time with tutors and assemblies. It is taught in each year group with a specific focus and depth of information appropriate to the pupils' age. Occasional planned visits also take place by PCSOs or other appropriate organisations. Each year group broadens and strengthens their previous knowledge and understanding.

A range of teaching strategies is used to encourage interactive learning, involving children's full participation. Ground rules are negotiated when appropriate and the need for sensitivity is recognised by all participants.

Work is regularly monitored and evaluated by all involved, including the pupils. This enables the School to check that objectives are being met, standards of teaching and learning are being achieved, resources are adequate and the schemes of work are taught appropriately.

The programme is based on:

1. National Curriculum Science Programme of Study.
2. National Curriculum PSHCE Framework.
3. Drug, alcohol and tobacco education Curriculum Guidance for Schools at Key Stages 1-3 (QCA 2003)
4. Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 92/2004)
5. Drug Advice for Schools (DfE and ACPO, January 2012)

9. Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the School Community. Whilst staff will want to be supportive, they must work within the Child Protection Guidelines of our School (see Child Protection Policy). Children often seek a promise that a disclosure is made in confidence; such a promise cannot be given. There is an overriding duty to ensure that matters are dealt with correctly.

10. Resources

Professional outside agencies are sometimes used to support the delivery of drugs education. For example, the Police, Theatre in Education groups and sometimes, other health professionals. School staff are always present on these occasions so that the educational outcome can be properly evaluated.

(See schemes of work for additional resources.)

11. Equal Opportunities

All young people are entitled to our drugs education programme, regardless of race, creed or gender. Written and visual resources will be carefully selected so they are not biased in any way.

12. Community links

We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers in the wider community. Parents and carers can be involved in their child's learning through parental awareness evenings involving professional outside agencies and by the School providing access to policies, schemes of work and the opportunity to talk to the PSHCE co-ordinator and other members of staff.

13. Professional development

Staff will receive appropriate training and support in the planning and implementation of drugs education, either as a whole School or on an individual basis. This is usually bought in by the School and delivered by specialists in the field of drugs education.

14. Roles and responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the School Community. All staff have a responsibility for drugs education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community.

15. Managing a drugs related incident

The School will be guided at all times by the DfES guidance (2004) and the DfE and ACPO guidance (2012) when managing drugs related incidents. What follows is a brief summary of steps we would take.

When there is a suspicion of drugs misuse within the School, the Headteacher will be informed first. The police will then be informed before the School undertakes its own investigation. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents/carers at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil.

Staff should document the incident and report to a senior member of staff immediately. Senior staff members involved in investigating an incident are likely to use questioning and to search an individual and their belongings. However, each drugs related incident will be considered on an individual basis and the School recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary.

The School will temporarily take possession of any substance to protect the pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession. This is permitted by law. The School will not attempt to analyse the substance, it will be handed to the police who will be able to identify if it is a controlled drug.

Appropriate counselling and support will be available to those pupils deemed at risk.