

# Chalford Hill Primary School

## Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Education Policy

Date of Policy Review: May 2014  
Next Review Due: April 2018

### Definition

Any substance taken to change the way an individual thinks, feels or behaves defines the term 'drugs'. It includes prescription and non-prescription medicines and legal and illegal recreational drugs, including alcohol and tobacco.

This policy is to be read together with the following policies:

- PSHE Policy (Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship).
- The Behaviour and Discipline Policy.
- The Health & Safety Policy.
- Science Policy.
- Medicines Policy.
- SMSC Policy.
- The Teaching and Learning Policy.

### Aims of this Policy

- To contribute to the present and future health and wellbeing of our pupils as set out in our School Aims.
- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils.
- To support all members of the school community by providing clear guidance.
- To give appropriate attention to all drugs: legal drugs, medicines, solvents and other socially disapproved of drugs and illegal drugs.
- To bring clarity and consistency to the way all staff approach the subject of drugs.
- To bring about confident, effective management of all drugs on school premises.
- To set down the basis for a planned drug education programme in accordance with LA and national guidance.

### Chalford Hill Primary School's Position on Drugs

This policy is intended to ensure all pupils are supported consistently whenever the school is responsible for their welfare. At Chalford Hill we recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but that all drugs have a range of effects, not all of which are intended, desired or understood by the user. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs they may come into contact with, their social and legal status and their uses and effects. These choices will include decisions about the use of medicines as well as non-medicinal drugs. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where wide ranges of drugs exist. The main emphasis of our work in relation to drugs is the safety of our pupils.

This policy has been written with careful reference to LA guidance and has involved wide local consultation. It takes into account the current level of understanding of the pupils of Chalford Hill and will be reviewed in line with the School Development Plan.

## School Drug Co-ordinator

Chalford Hill will always have a member of staff designated as Drug Co-ordinator – currently this is Mr Thomas. The main function of the Drug Co-ordinator is to act as the focal point for drug issues, which concern the school. Tasks will include assessing quality and availability of in-service drug training, helping choose and purchase suitable drug education resource materials, keeping colleagues up to date with developments in the field and acting as the hub for the school's management of drug-related situations and incidents at school.

## Drug Education

At Chalford Hill, drug education is a planned and integral element of the PHSCE curriculum and is an entitlement of every pupil. The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme supports it.

We use drug education to bring about a greater understanding of the drugs with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. Through drug education we aim to build their self-esteem, their skills and their understanding of the significance of their own role in preserving their health and welfare. In addition to building our pupils' competence, we also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make careful decisions.

We intend that children know the school rule that all drugs and medicines need to be managed at school by teachers and can only be brought on to premises with teacher's knowledge and approval.

The EYFS does not refer specifically to drugs; however, teachers ensure that the ideas, 'risk', 'danger' and 'harm' are explored progressively through the school so that pupils begin to understand the difference between taking risks and courting danger. This is taught in the clear context of the emphasis we place at Chalford Hill upon safety and personal responsibility.

The content of drug education in KS1 and KS2 will include, but not be limited by, the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes for Science, PSHE and Citizenship.

Further content will be based on guidance in the DFES booklet *Drug Education: Curriculum Guidance for Schools* and Gloucestershire County Council Guidance on *Drug Education and the Management of Drug-Related Incidents* and the school's PHSE policy.

## Knowledge

We recognise that all pupils need accurate, up to date, credible drug information including:

- Knowledge of what drugs are.
- Knowledge of how drugs affect the body.
- Knowledge about the effects and risks of using drugs.
- To believe in their own mortality.
- To know the boundaries set by parents/carers, school and the law.
- To know where and how they can get help.
- The role of drugs as medicines.

## Skills

Pupils need the skills to put their knowledge and understanding into practical action, which will keep them safe, including:

- Basic risk assessment skills in relation to personal safety.
- Information finding skills.

## **Understanding**

Pupils will be taught to understand:

- The social, health and legal issues raised by drug use.
- That they are unique, valuable and irreplaceable.

## **Attitudes**

Pupils will be taught to consider, explore (and sometimes re-consider) the attitudes and values they hold as well as those held by others, including:

- Challenging stereotypes.
- Exploring influences on peoples' health related behaviour.
- Having the confidence and support to be able to cope with situations where drugs are on offer.

In accordance with our PHSE policy and the SEAL programme, our pupils are helped to understand clearly that particular decisions about behaviour may lead inevitably to certain consequences.

We are careful to monitor and record the drug education work done in each class and the progress pupils demonstrate in terms of their knowledge, skills and changing attitudes. This helps us to review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of our work.

## **Drug Abuse in School**

If any pupil is thought to be under the influence of an unauthorised drug, medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required. In addition, enquiries will be undertaken to try to find out what drug is involved, it's source and whether any pupils are involved. The priority will be pupils' safety. All staff receive regular first aid training.

## **Possession of Drugs**

If any pupil is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, the law permits the school to take temporary possession of a substance suspected to be an illegal drug for the purpose of protecting a pupil from harm and to prevent an offence being committed in relation to that drug. Confiscated substances are locked in the school office for safe-keeping.

If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, under the terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, it will be either be destroyed as soon as practicable (in the presence of a witness) or given to the school police liaison officer and a careful record kept. The Drug Co-ordinator must be informed and will take the lead in deciding how to respond further. Each situation will be judged individually. Parents will be informed and other outside professionals such as the LA, police, school nurse will be informed or consulted as appropriate. An investigation will be undertaken with the Headteacher and Drug Co-ordinator taking the lead, to try and determine the source of any drug and the involvement of any other pupils. Records will be made by the Drug Co-ordinator / Headteacher and always kept in the Headteacher's room.

Referral agencies may include:

- Education Welfare Officer.
- Schools Psychological Service.
- Social Services.
- Area Child Protection Team.

The range of sanctions used for rule-breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions and will depend on the nature and gravity of the offence. Exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in line with the DfES and LA guidance on exclusions. A case conference will be called if it is judged necessary.

Incidents involving staff should be dealt with using the school's disciplinary procedures and referral to Occupational Health may be necessary. Anyone suspected of being under the influence of drugs, or acting in a manner that could be detrimental to others should be encouraged to leave the premises safely.

Rumours or suspicions will be fully and promptly investigated. The Head Teacher and Drug Co-ordinator will take the lead.

The effectiveness of any response to an unplanned drug incident in school will be assessed and procedures reviewed by the Head Teacher and Drug Co-ordinator and colleagues within one week. Procedures will be amended as a result if necessary.

## **The Pupils' Needs**

In any drug-related incident, the needs of pupils are paramount. Pupils may be offered support through our pastoral system and referral if necessary, to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels that any pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents. Such interventions could include consultations with parents and other agencies, possibly case conference and subsequent referral.

## **Parents and Carers**

At Chalford Hill, the wishes of parents are carefully considered. We try to ensure parents are aware of how we deal with drug issues and we will put parents in touch with appropriate agencies offering help or guidance on drug-related issues. Parents are welcome to come to the school and talk to us about any concerns or questions they may have.

Parents and carers are routinely contacted as soon as the school has evidence of pupils with unauthorised drugs, unless this might compromise the pupils' safety.

There needs to be sensitivity to the possibility that parents/carers may themselves be involved with drug use in a way that raises issues of child protection.

## **Governors**

The school always involves governors in all aspects of school life. Governors will be involved in considering and approving any changes proposed to this policy and are invited to join the staff for all discussions on policies and schemes of work.

## **In-Service Training**

The staff development tutor, is responsible for assessing the training needs of staff and for securing funds and suitable training to meet those needs. The first source of information about drug training is the PSHE Adviser at the LEA.

## **Further Links and Information**

Gloucestershire Schoolsnet - Gloucestershire Healthy Living & Learning

<http://www.ghll.org.uk/resources/generic-resources/substance-misuse/>