

Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School



Drugs Education Policy – Substance Use and Misuse 2021-2024

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs:

Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School statement

Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Responsibilities

The headteacher will:

- ensure that staff are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;

The governing body will support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

Objectives of drugs education

- Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Drugs education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2 pupils will learn that alcohol is a widely used drug and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse. We must help to equip children to handle risky situations before they meet them.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from health professionals or the local police force. In teaching this course we follow the DfE and NYCC guidelines.

Drugs at school

Parents must ask permission to bring prescribed medication into school or they may visit the school in the lunch break to bring and administer prescribed medication themselves, by prior arrangement.

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma).

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school.

Drugs incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school may involve alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, or illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm.

A full record will be made of any incident.

The headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures and possibly the involvement of the police.

See Child Protection Policy

Monitoring and review

The school will monitor the Drugs Policy on a regular basis.

Adopted: Autumn Term 2021

Next review: Autumn 2024

Amanda Tounson

