

Introduction

Bigland Green aims to equip its pupils and staff with the knowledge, understanding and skills to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. The school teaches pupils about the dangers to health posed by drug taking. It also equips them with the social skills to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. The school is committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all the members in the school community.

This policy takes account DfE and ACPO¹ drug advice for schools (September 2012) and the National Drugs Strategy (July 2017). This policy applies to all aspects of the school's work and should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies.

Drugs education in context

Bigland Green aims to provide a comprehensive education which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health. Pupils are taught the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Education about drugs forms an integral part of the school curriculum. The school is committed to the health and safety of its community and takes action to safeguard their wellbeing. Pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being the development of knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

Range of substances

A 'drug' is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include, for example :

- Alcohol and tobacco
- Over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs. Procedures for handling prescribed medicines are outlined in the school first aid and medication policy.

If the headteacher has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on the school premises appropriate steps will be taken to inform the relevant bodies in order to avoid any liability as a 'manager or occupier' of premises. If staff members have taken possession of a substance for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing an offence; they should under no circumstance, try to analyse or identify it. Staff should wear gloves when handling it, to avoid possible ingestion through the skin. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place, and the police contacted.

Procedures for handling and reporting incidents

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises

¹ ACPO Association of Chief Police Officers

- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- An adult visitor or staff suspected of being under the influence of drugs

If an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident

Any incident will be reported to the headteacher or member of staff who is in-charge who will contact the police if necessary. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded and held on file in the headteacher's confidential records.

Confidentiality

If a pupil discloses to a known adult is taking drugs, it should be made clear confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Pupils should be encouraged to talk to their parents unless the disclosure is about the parents. A record will be made of the disclosure (Child Protection 'Record of Concern') and the headteacher and/or designated member for child protection is to be informed. The matter will be treated as a potential safeguarding matter, and the parents contacted in the first instance.

Drugs education within the curriculum

The school regards drugs education as a whole-school issue and believes that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science, PSE, RE and PE. There are also opportunities during circle time which will become known as philosophy for children (P4C).

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 the most widely used drug and that its dangers can be overlooked. Pupils will be taught about the dangers of smoking and habit forming, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. They will also be taught about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.

The school will ensure the following:

- Use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning
- Find out what the children know already
- Use drama, role-play or Computing to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios
- Encourage pupils to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

Sometimes, classteachers may seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. The resources and materials that will be used are those recommended by the LA or the DfE.

Drugs at school

Any prescribed medication should be stored in the school office as stated in the first aid policy. Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely to prevent inappropriate access or use by pupils. Aerosols, glues (other than PVA) and board-cleaning fluids are used sparingly in school, and must be handled and stored carefully by all members of staff.

Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school premises or grounds. Alcohol is also not allowed on the school premises.

Drugs incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than 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; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, the police will be notified to determine an appropriate method of disposal. These precautions must be witnessed and recorded by either the headteacher or SLT member. Staff must not taste unknown or confiscated substances. Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents or carers; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances. Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays, etc.

The headteacher will notify the police and take advice as to how to proceed further. A full record will be made of any incident and the headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate follow-up response.

The Chair of Governors will be informed of any drug incident that should occur. The Local Authority will also be notified of any drug incidents in school each term.

The premises manager ensures that the grounds are kept clear of any dangerous substances / objects. He checks the grounds regularly and ensures that they are safe. Any glass/ bottles are removed quickly and safely. Discarded needles would be disposed of via a sharps container. Any unknown substances will be given to the police, or disposed of on their advice in the presence of witnesses. All staff however are encouraged to be vigilant around the school grounds, particularly close to the main entrances. Pupils should not pick up any such materials.

Role of parents and carers

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

- Inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy;
- Answer questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents/carers can support the key messages being given to children at school.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, parents or carers will be informed with an explanation of how the school intends to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of a parent/carer who appears to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol, particularly when they intend to driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement, as the focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Any such occurrences must be reported to the headteacher.

Monitoring and evaluation

Schools and education are continually changing. It is necessary to regularly review the school practices and with it policy so that we can take account of new research, advice or other related developments.

Date approved	Signature	Review
January 2018		As required