

New Hope Christian School Drugs Education Policy Statement

1. Rationale

Children and young people are influenced by information and Images about drugs from a variety of sources in the home, through mass media and popular music, and by mixing with others who have knowledge of drugs. In response to these concerns, New Hope Christian School believes it has a duty to inform and educate our children, as part of our care for the welfare of the children. It is important that we work in partnership with health, social and police services when dealing with drug associated issues within the school community.

2. Role of the Co-ordinator

It is the role of the co-ordinator to liaise, monitor, review and plan with class teachers to ensure effective delivery of the programme. The co-ordinator will be responsible for managing the budget and providing resources. It is also the co-ordinator's responsibility to ensure that all new developments are disseminated to all staff, and that outside expertise is sought in any matters. INSET courses and staff training will be arranged where appropriate.

3. Aims and Objectives

- To provide a holistic approach to drug education.
- To enable children to make healthy, informed choices, by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, developing skills of self-responsibility and promoting self-awareness.
- Provide accurate information on drugs (specifically as the role of medicines) with emphasis on school rules relating to medicines.
- To raise awareness about the implications of drug use and its effects.
- To raise pupil self esteem.
- To give information about support services.
- To create a climate where children feel comfortable to discuss concerns of worries.

4. Moral and Values

Our school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being. Within our ethos we acknowledge the importance of respect and care for others and ourselves. NHCS condemns the misuse of drugs, by members of the school, as part of our harm reduction approach. Fundamental to our school's value and practice, is the principle of sharing responsibility for the education of our children with parents and carers, by informing through parent information meetings and parenting courses, so that we all share the same perspectives.

5. Equal Opportunities

This policy is subject to the Equal Opportunities Policy.

6. Drugs Education Programme and Organisation.

Drugs Education begins at Key Stage 1 and is revisited on an annual basis. Pupils are provided with opportunities to consider that medicines are drugs and that all drugs are potentially harmful, unless we use

them properly.

Pupils are provided with opportunities to consider that medicines, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

Children will be aware of a range of legal and illegal drugs.

6. Procedures for dealing with pupils found in possession of drugs on school premises:

Any pupils carrying drugs or substances on school premises will have the items confiscated immediately and parents will be informed.

Prescription drugs will be kept in school by qualified staff and school procedures relating to medicines must be followed. The school staff will not administer any drugs without the written consent of parents, stating exact dosage and time to be given.

This will also include the use of inhalers. Parents will be contacted should concerns arise.

7. Confidentiality

It will be brought to the children's attention that confidentiality regarding activities involving drugs will not be maintained and will be reported, in the first instance, to the Head Teacher or child protection representative. Each case will be considered individually and parents will be informed. Where confidentiality has to be breached, reasons should be given. If a teacher is aware or knows of any possible criminal activity outside of school premises, or has evidence that pupils are obtaining alcohol or solvents in contravention of the law, the police must be informed.

8 Resources

Most resources are year based, with a small supply of central stock.

9. Reference to other policies

- Health and Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Science
- P.S.H.E and Citizenship
- Teaching and Learning

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