



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

At Coppetts Wood School we believe drugs education is a fundamental part of Personal, Social and Health Education.

Children learn about drugs like medicines, alcohol and tobacco from their families and the community in which they live. They learn how their parents, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives treat these drugs by watching what they do and listening to what they say. Young children also learn about drugs from television programmes and magazines that they see in their own homes, in the homes of relatives and friends.

Coppetts Wood Primary School's drug education programme aims to give children accurate information about drugs and drug use. Students learn safety messages about medicines and develop the skills that they need to stay safe around drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.

This also supports the school ethos in terms of:

- Encouraging respect for others
- Developing self-esteem and confidence
- Encouraging the development of community spirit and good citizenship

What are the aims of the policy?

The main aims of our drug education are:

- To enhance children's decision making skills to enable children to make positive healthy choices.
- To raise pupils awareness of the world of drugs so they can make informed decisions about their own drug use.
- To enable pupils to explore their own and other's feelings, views, attitudes and values towards drugs and drug issues.
- To help the children to distinguish between different drug substances and consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To recognise medicines are drugs and can help people but that misuse can be harmful to health.
- To encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into the body.
- To create a climate where a child feels comfortable to discuss his/her or family drug use.
- To correct any misconceptions about the effects of drugs.
- To enable each pupil to develop confidence and self esteem.
- To support those pupils, where appropriate, who come to the attention of the school, that need help with a problem, and to make them aware of the advice and support offered by local and national agencies.

What do we mean by drugs?

A drug is any substance, taken into the body, which alters behaviour or the way in which the body functions, either physically, emotionally or mentally. This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication, legally available drugs and substances such as alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and controlled drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy and heroin.

What is taught in Coppetts Wood Primary school drug education?

Drug education is integrated into the curriculum through science, health education and through personal and social education sessions. Other opportunities include assemblies and occasional planned visits from a police officer or other appropriate people. A wide range of teaching approaches are used but the emphasis is on class and small group discussions. Ground rules are negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work is recognised, safeguarding the interests of the pupil and everyone.

In Foundation Stage pupils will use role play to explore this area of learning:

e.g.

- seeing the doctor
- visiting the chemist
- the importance of medicines and their safe handling

In Years 1 and 2 pupils learn:

- about taking medicines and the need to use them properly under the supervision of an adult
- that medicines and poisons must be stored out of reach of children
- how to contact emergency services if there is an accident in the home.

In Years 3 and 4 students learn:

- about legal drugs – how they affect the body and how they can be helpful and harmful
- what medicines would be in a first aid kit
- examine in detail the variety of medicines that might be found in the home and responsible use
- Examine the effects of tobacco on the body and ways to avoid passive smoking.

In Years 5 and 6 students:

- consolidate and extend the learning programmes of Years 1 to 4
- discuss both legal and controlled drugs, including the fact that there are often restrictions on legal drugs that make their sale or use illegal. For example, it is illegal to sell alcohol and cigarettes to people under the age of 18:
learn about the effects of alcohol on the body, caffeine and energy drinks, smoking and cannabis and the effect of these - linked to peer pressure

How do we ensure equal access?

Equal opportunities

Drugs education should always be dealt with sensitively, with consideration being given to any particular religious or cultural factors. This policy is designed to ensure that all children, regardless of gender, culture, religion, language or ability have full access to the curriculum.

Parental involvement

As with all areas of children's learning we need the support of parents and carers to help with the development of their child's knowledge and understanding. Parents will always be (except in child protection issues) immediately informed of any incidents involving unauthorised drugs.

Special needs

At Coppetts Wood Primary School we aim to teach all children recognising their individual differences and needs. Staff are sensitive to the different experiences of children in this subject area and will operate within the terms of the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Date: April 2016

Review: June 2019

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