FCJ Primary School

Drugs, Smoking & Alcohol Policy

Mission Statement

Teach the children with all the kindness and gentleness possible.

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Article 3: Acting in the best interest of the children in our care.

The FCJ Governors are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at every opportunity and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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1 Introduction

Staff responsible for this Policy: The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff and liaising with any external agencies to support the curriculum.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services.

This policy is informed by:

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)

Links to the UN Rights of the Child

Article 33
Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.

Article 6
Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to make sure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article 24
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

2 Aims and Objectives

FCJ Primary School exists to provide the focus for our children to develop to their full potential, both as individuals and as members of the school and wider community in a secure, caring and happy environment. Children, parents, school staff and governors work in partnership for the benefit of all.

As a school, we seek continually to enrich the lives of those entrusted to our care through a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to meet the needs of each child, enabling them to acquire the skills, attitudes and values necessary for life.

In accordance with these values, this policy aims to set out the school's approach to teaching and learning about drugs, smoking & alcohol and FCJ's management of situations involving drugs. We follow the law around smoking, illegal drugs and alcohol.

Although it is highly unlikely that illegal drugs will be in our primary school, we believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognize that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing and academic achievement. We therefore have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause, and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. Through this policy we aim to give a clear message to all parents, staff and visitors about using the school site and our approach to smoking, alcohol and drugs.

3 Definition of Drugs

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. (See: Appendix)

The definition of drugs given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave".

This refers to all drugs whether:

- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs (Jersey) Law 1978) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, GHB, anabolic steroids
- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18-year-olds including alcohol, tobacco, shisha and volatile substances (solvents, aerosols, petrol & butane)
- Drugs that are legal to use and buy such as poppers
- Over the counter and prescription medicines e.g paracetamol
- Prescribed medicines
- Electronic cigarettes/Vapes
- And other drugs such legal highs/Novel Psychoactive Substances that are illegal to sell for human consumption and e-cigarettes that currently have no restrictions (although laws about selling to under 18s and use in public places are to be put in place)

Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

Our school operates a smoke free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously as part of our Healthy School programme. We are aware of the increasing problem of drug misuse throughout the country.

4 Drug Education Curriculum

Drug education within the school is mainly delivered as part of the PSHE but not exclusively. It also forms part of the science curriculum. It is also part of our FCJ Primary school values. Our FCJ Primary Learning Skills will also play a part in drugs education. There needs to be progression from reception to Year 6 with topics and issues included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.

The goal of drug and alcohol education is:

For pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

The learning objectives for drug and alcohol education include:

Attitudes and Values.

- to examine own opinions and values
- to promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self-safe
- to enhance self-awareness and self esteem

- to value and respect self and others
- to value diversity and difference within society
- to promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs

Personal and Social Skills

- to identify risks to health
- to communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals
- to learn how to give and get help
- to develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug use
- to develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- to be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media
- to make sensible informed choices
- to be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- to develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

Knowledge and Understanding

- to develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs
- to gain an understanding of how the body functions
- to gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use
- to gain an understanding of the role of drugs in society and the laws and rules relating to their use
- to gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have worries and an understanding of confidentiality

To gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change.

5 Confidentiality and child protection

Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE programme. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Head teacher.

It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. In such circumstances the Designated teacher for Safeguarding will be involved. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a pupil, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However, there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the child at risk and in these cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher in liaison with the designated child protection officer with the child's welfare a priority.

6 Management of Authorised Legal Drugs in School

This school has agreed that there are circumstances when some legal drugs are authorised for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

i. Medicines

The approach to access and administration of medicines is set out in the school's Medicines Policy.

The principles underlying this are to:

- Recognise individual medical needs and promote inclusion to provide an education for all pupils, supporting their medical needs.
- Undertake to contact parents/carers if a pupil is ill during the school day.

In most cases, staff do not administer medicines at school to pupils unless it would be detrimental to health or attendance not to administer and only with parental written consent. Details about managing medicines can be found in our policy on supporting pupils with medical needs. The decision to allow pupils to self-administer medicines rests with the Headteacher

Asthma inhalers, held in school with written parental consent, are kept secure with safe and easy access for school staff authorised to administer. Children's personal inhalers are taken on all off-site visits and held by the accompanying school staff.

Staff are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect pupils in their class.

The School Nurse will be informed of any children attending the school with medical conditions. Advice will be sought on ensuring they have an appropriate care plan and that school staff are trained to administer any medication required for the day to day management of their condition in school or during a medical emergency.

ii. Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals eg for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy.

In the event of a child or adult who is required to use medical sharps to address the management of their health condition (e.g. insulin or gluco blood testing) a medical sharps disposal bin will be provided. Advice will be sought from the School Nurse regarding the management of the sharps and sharps bin on the school site.

Solvents or hazardous chemicals legitimately used carefully by school staff or pupils are stored securely in the appropriate area and managed in a way to prevent inappropriate access or use.

iii. Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school (with the appropriate license) i.e Parent/staff social events.

Staff and parents should not bring alcohol on to the school site other than on a pre-approved basis.

Any member of staff who appears to be under the influence of drink (or other illegal drugs) which prevent them from fulfilling their duties will be asked to leave the premises immediately. Where necessary disciplinary procedures will begin.

iv. Smoking

It is illegal to smoke in any enclosed or substantially enclosed public place that is open to the public.

In line with Jersey Law, we are a smoke free school and staff, parents, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises. The school site is defined as anywhere within the school boundary.

Any staff members who smoke are required to leave the site when doing so. Smoking breaks are only taken as part of official breaks and not as additional breaks.

All visitors, contractors, volunteers and delivery staff are required to abide by this policy.

Smoke free signage is prominent around our school grounds.

v. E-cigarettes (sometimes known as nicotine vaporisers/vapes)

The use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school are not allowed as above.

7 Educational visit/social events

The school's drug education policy applies during school visits and school social events.

During educational visits:

- Staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits, which will include the issue of consumption of alcohol and smoking by staff
- Staff are not permitted to consume alcohol
- Adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place
- A nominated first aider will be responsible for the safe storage of any pupils' medicines and supervision their administration
- Pupils will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

School social events:

- At all social events organised by the school the responsibility for the conduct of the pupils present remains with the parent/carer
- At such events the school 'No Smoking Policy will be enforced
- This school will not condone the use of any illegal substance by any individual during social activities connected with the school
- Adults at designated school functions, subject to compliance with licensing law and within reasonable limits, may consume alcohol.

8 Management of Drug Related Incidents

In this school, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries.

Drug related incidents in a primary school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve:

Pupils smoking cigarettes in school, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk, pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils, misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another pupil, a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes at a local shop, the Site Manager finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking.

This school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits, school journeys and at school social events. These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and those working and visiting the school.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal substances found on pupils will be confiscated. If necessary, a pupil will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent / carer.

Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a pupil is discovered with tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal drugs, then a fixed period exclusion will be a consideration. More serious disciplinary consequences will be considered, together with support needs and child protection, dependent upon individual circumstances.

The school has the powers, with police assistance, if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of pupils during the journey to and from school is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a pupil due to parent /carer intoxication, then discussion will be held with the adult and a possible referral made to the MASH team.

School responses to drug-related incidents

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- Permanent exclusion will not be the automatic response and will only be used in the most serious cases and as a final resort
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk. The Headteacher, in consultation with key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place.
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors.

Possible responses might be:

i. **Support and counselling**

If a pupil has a concern about drugs or has been involved in a drug related incident or is themselves at risk of drug misuse, we will seek support from our Education Welfare officer (EWO) and if appropriate refer to a specialist agency

ii. Sanctions

Where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the behaviour policy. In the unlikely event of an incident involving illegal drugs, permanent exclusion will be considered and used if needed