

Rowner Junior School

Drugs and alcohol policy



September 2017

FGB: 14.9.17

Rowner Junior School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Purpose of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school

curriculum

Inclusive definition of drugs

We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Rationale/key principles

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

Boundaries, including relevance of the policy to school trips and visits

The legal definition of premises of the school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles or any venue managed by the school at the time of e.g. premises of a school trip or visit. The policy will also relate to pupils use of the premises and grounds beyond the schoolday.

DRUG EDUCATION

Context

We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal Development Learning curriculum.

There will also be opportunities for teachers, parents and governors to participate in drug education sessions. These sessions will be a result of collaboration between the school and various support agencies.

Ethos

Drug education in our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.

Content

It is felt that drug education should start at least two to three years before the likely age of experimentation. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity.

Children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as

medicines.

Children should be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

In line with these proposals drug education will be taught as part of the PSHE programme. This will be either within class topics or be specifically taught as and when appropriate.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- practise decision making skills.
- become aware of peer pressure.
- develop assertiveness skills.
- consider the consequences of risk taking.
- learn how to access sources of help and information.
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- evaluate media messages on drug use.

Use of visitors and outside speakers

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Managing drug related incidents

Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

Routine arrangements

Medicines

The school has a policy and procedures for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Tobacco

The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times, this includes electronic and vapid devices. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these they will be confiscated and a meeting will be arranged between the headteacher and the child's parent/carer.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in the possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (with the exception of inhalers and prescribed medication).

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular site checks will be made to ensure that our site is clear of any inappropriate materials.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- finding drugs, or related items on the school premises
- possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- supply of drugs on school premises
- individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- rumours or reports of drug possession/supply or use

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The School's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The headteacher will be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. The headteacher will record all incidents within 24 hours and will only share information with relevant agencies and personnel.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the headteacher, or her representative may authorize a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. Searches must be carried in the presence of a witness and the named pupil.

Training and support

We recognize the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing with incidents appropriately. The headteacher will organize training related to the identified needs of staff as required. All staff will adhere to the policy and know their responsibilities within it.

