



OWLS Academy Trust

Drugs Education Policy

Adopted by The OWLS Academy Trust on	June 2016
Next Review Due	

Aims and objectives

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking (including smoking and alcohol use), and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- To know and understand simple safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances;
- to help children become more self-confident and assertive so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by governors and staff.

Organisation

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 5, where the children are taught about some illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. The focus is mainly on the effects and consequences of smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines

provided by the LEA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LEA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher may seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

Once a year, the Life Education Van visits the school and all children attend a workshop appropriate for their age. The focus of the Year 4 and 5 programmes is usually learning about the effects of cigarettes and alcohol on the body and becoming assertive and confident individuals able to deal with situations of peer pressure.

The school is currently working towards its Healthy School Status. effective drug and alcohol education is a key part of attaining this award.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The headteacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The role of the person responsible for Drugs Education

There is a specified person who is responsible for Drugs Education in our school. They will attend any meetings and take part in any training offered by the LEA to stay up to date with current issues. They will liaise with the Headteacher, science co-ordinator and PSHCE co-ordinator to ensure that there is adequate provision of Drugs Education

in our school and that children have knowledge of the risks and possible harm that can result from the use and misuse of drugs and alcohol. They will also ensure that teachers feel confident teaching issues relating to drugs and alcohol education, have adequate resources to teach drugs education and organise further training or dissemination of information where possible.

The role of all members of staff

Staff must promote healthy lifestyles and encourage children to be confident, aware with high self-esteem so they are less likely to be at risk. They should also create a comfortable and open relationship with the children so that they feel able to share their thoughts and ideas on drugs and alcohol. If a member of staff feels that a child is at risk from drugs (either themselves, a friend or a family member), that member of staff has a duty of care to inform the Headteacher and complete a record of concern form.

The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

This policy and procedures apply to:

- All legal and illegal drugs and medicines;
- All students, staff and visitors to the school;

- The school premises;
- Students' journeys between home and school;
- Educational visits, residential courses and extra-curricular activities for students.

The possession, use or supply of any drug is regarded as a breach of school rules and the appropriate disciplinary procedure will be initiated, with the exception of :

- The use of medicines by students with parental notification and knowledge by the Headteacher
- The appropriate use of medicines by staff
- The smoking of tobacco by staff on journeys between school and home
- Consumption of alcohol by staff and visitors during organised social occasions on the premises when there are no students on site.

There are no circumstances in which it is appropriate/acceptable for staff or visitors to use tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of students. Any information about illegal drugs or the illicit sale of legal drugs outside the scope of this policy, as defined above, will be passed on to the police. This includes sale of tobacco, solvents and alcohol to under age people and any information about the use, possession or supply of illegal drugs.

The Law

The law covering the possession, use and supply of medicines, alcohol, solvents, illegal and other drugs is complex. The legal obligations of schools are about responsibility for premises. It is an offence to knowingly allow:

- The use of cannabis and opium
- The sale of alcohol without a license
- The supply of prepared magic mushrooms
- The production and supply of any illegal substance

It is legal to confiscate an illicit drug in order to prevent an offence or in the process of handing it to the police. All substances (legal and illegal) must be deposited to the school Bursary (LH) to place in the school safe.

All staff are currently trained in first aid and can give first aid should an emergency occur. Should any drug related material be found on the school premises, the Headteacher will be immediately informed and he will decide on the appropriate action. Medical gloves and a sharps disposal box are located above the first aid cupboard should a member of staff need to dispose of a needle, (or any other sharp object). All children are taught not to touch any sharp objects that they find.

Monitoring and review

The curriculum committee of the governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drug education programme taught in the school.

Signed:

Date: Summer 2016