

Brookeborough Primary School



Drugs Education Policy

The school will review this policy in March 2025

Signed: A. Young (B.O.G.) Date: March 2024

Signed: B Ovens (Principal) Date: March 2024

Appendices

Appendix 1: Smoking and Tobacco

Appendix 2: Alcohol

Appendix 3: Procedure for Managing Drug related Incident

Appendix 4: Drug Education Programme

Introduction

This policy is part of the school's overall Health Education Programme which is cross-curricular in nature. It encompasses the following areas: -

Medicine and drugs, Health, Safety, Nutrition, Physical Education and Healthy Environment.

Policy Statement

The Governors and staff of this school do not condone the misuse of drugs. They recognise that there has been an increase in the abuse of drugs in recent years in Northern Ireland and that this misuse seems to be affecting an ever-younger population.

We believe that this school has a vital role to play in combating the misuse of drugs and we are implementing an education programme throughout the school.

We want our pupils to make informed and responsible decisions about drugs by increasing their knowledge and by developing in them appropriate values, attitudes, and skills.

Definitions

Drugs will include any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way the body works or the way a person behaves, feels, or thinks.

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include: -

- Alcohol and tobacco
- 'over-the counter' medicines, such as paracetamol
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, tranquillisers, inhalers, and Ritalin
- Volatile substances, such as correcting fluids/thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols, glues, and petrol
- Controlled drugs, such as Cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, Amphetamine Sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms (processed), Heroin and Cocaine
- Other substances such as Amyl/Butyl Nitrate (poppers) and unprocessed magic mushrooms.

Ethos

It is our aim to provide our pupils with a secure and stimulating environment where they can develop socially, emotionally, academically, spiritually, and physically. In an atmosphere of mutual respect teachers and learners are valued and individual pupil's needs are noticed and responded to sensitively. Pupil's self esteem is raised through developing high expectations and a positive attitude to achievement. Pupil successes are celebrated, and praise given.

Parents are made welcome in the school and are encouraged to play an active part in their children's learning. Through providing a welcoming and colourful environment we aim to produce happy, confident children who are motivated to perform to their highest potential, who are confident in their abilities, successful in their learning and effective contributors to their community.

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure the welfare of pupils is always of paramount importance.
- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse
- To provide all teaching and non-teaching staff with adequate training and support to enable them to deal effectively and confidently with incidents of suspected drug abuse, and to ensure that the agreed procedures are consistently and sensitively applied in all situations.
- To empower teaching staff through appropriate training and support to develop and deliver an effective Drug Education Programme
- To provide a Drug Education Programme which: -
 1. Develops pupils' self esteem and promotes positive attitudes in their relationships with others
 2. Gives pupils opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about the use/misuse of drugs
 3. Helps pupils develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative pressures and influences
- To provide appropriate support and assistance for those pupils affected by drug-related issues
- To inform parents of the content of this policy and the procedures to be implemented in the management of incidents of suspected drug abuse
- To establish an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of all drugs.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

- Be aware of and adhere to school rules in relation to drug use/misuse, including tobacco, alcohol, over-the counter and prescription medication, volatile substances, and controlled drugs.

Parents/Guardians

- Support the school in the development and implementation of this Drugs Policy, including the school's procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse and Drug Education Programme
- Support your child/children if they have become involved with drugs

All Staff (teaching and non-teaching)

- Be alert to the possibility of drug use/misuse
- Be familiar with the school's procedures in handling incidents of suspected drug-related incidents
- It is not the responsibility of the individual staff member to investigate the circumstances surrounding an incident, however he/she should deal with any emergency procedures if necessary
- Any information, substance or paraphernalia received should be forwarded to the designated teacher for drugs who may have to take immediate action.

Teachers delivering the Drug Education Programme

In addition to the above: -

- Deliver the School's Drug Education Programme and positive decision-making programmes such as The Healthy Me and Helping Hands Preventative Programmes. These programmes enable pupils to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Try to create an atmosphere in the classroom in which pupils can freely contribute to discussion, safe in the knowledge that the comments, ideas, and feelings of the group are valued
- Support pupils in their class if necessary
- Liaise with the designated teacher for drugs regarding any aspect of the programme/policy, as necessary
- Safety week held in Term 3

The designated teacher for drugs are Mrs Gould and Mr Young

Role of Designated Teachers

- Ensure that all staff and parents are aware of and have access to a copy of the policy
- Have oversight and co-ordination of the planning of curricular provision in compliance with the statutory requirements including periodic update and renewal of the policy
- Liaise with other staff responsible for pastoral care in co-ordinating the delivery of the Drug Education Programme
- Be responsible or co-ordinating the school's procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse
- Determine the circumstances surrounding any suspected drug-related incident
- Complete a suspected incident report form and forward to the principal
- Ensure the engagement and active participation of parents in all aspects of drug education
- Act as the point of contact for outside agencies working with the school.

Role of The Principal

- Ensure that members of the Board of Governors have been consulted on and ratified the policy

In the case of incidents of suspected drug misuse

- Ensure the welfare and well being of the pupil/s involved in the incident and the rest of the school community
- Ensure the following people are informed:
 - Parents/guardians
 - PSNI
 - Board of Governors
 - Designated Officer in the Education Authority 'Western Region'
 - Members of staff
 - Other pupils and parents informed within the confines of confidentiality
 - Agree, in consultation with the Board of Governors, appropriate pastoral and disciplinary responses in relation to the incident, including counselling services/support
 - Retain written records of the incident and ensure a copy of the report is submitted to the Board of Governors and Education Authority as appropriate
 - Review procedures and amend as appropriate

Role of The Board of Governors

- Examine and approve the completed policy and education programme, prior to their implementation in the school
- Ensure the policy is listed in the school prospectus; made available on request and that it is reviewed at regular intervals
- Agree in consultation with the principal appropriate pastoral disciplinary responses in relation to incidents
- Designate a Governor to work with the Principal and designated teacher for drugs in relation to drug-related incidents

The Building Supervisor

- Be vigilant around and conduct regular checks of the school grounds for drug-related paraphernalia, and inform the designated teacher for drugs as appropriate
- Ensure the safe storage, handling, and disposal of potentially harmful substances such as solvents and cleaning fluids

Appendix 1

Smoking/Tobacco

School Policy

1. The school is a restricted environment and signage to this effect will be permanently on display
2. No-one will be permitted to smoke while on the school premises
3. Pupils will be educated on the effects of smoking and given opportunities to learn the skills to resist the pressure to smoke. They should be able to make informed decisions on smoking.

Aims

1. To promote healthy lifestyles
2. To teach pupils about the hazards of smoking
3. To protect the health of pupils, staff, and visitors to the school.

Objectives

1. To educate pupils and staff about the serious health risks of smoking
2. To educate pupils and staff as to the benefits of not smoking or stopping smoking
3. To provide a supportive environment for those who do not wish to smoke and those who are trying to stop
4. To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of its staff, its pupils and the community it serves
5. To provide a smoke-free working environment.

Prevention

- No smoking signs
- No cigarettes are allowed in school
- Visitors/staff are not permitted to smoke on school premises
- Teaching through Health Education Programme (Healthy Me Programme, Helping Hands Preventative Programme and Living, Learning Together PDMU Packs).

Interventions

Pupils breaking this rule will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy. Adults will be advised by other members of staff.

Appendix 2

Alcohol

School Policy

1. The school premises are an alcohol free zone
2. No alcohol to be brought or consumed on school premises
3. Pupils will be educated about the effects of drinking alcohol
4. Pupils will be given opportunities to learn the skills necessary to resist the pressure to drink alcohol.

Aims

1. To promote healthy lifestyles
2. to teach pupils about the hazards of consuming alcohol
3. To protect the health of pupils, staff and visitors to school.

Objectives

1. To educate pupils and staff about the serious health risks of abusing alcohol
2. To educate pupils about the social problems associated with alcohol abuse
3. To provide a supportive environment for any pupil affected by the results of alcohol abuse
4. To provide an alcohol-free working environment.

Prevention

1. No alcohol is allowed in school
2. Visitors/staff are not permitted to drink alcohol on school premises
3. Teaching through Health Education Programme (Healthy Me Programme, Helping Hands Preventative Programme and Living, Learning Together PDMU Packs).

Intervention

Pupils breaking this rule will be dealt with under school's discipline policy.
Adults will be advised by other members of staff.

Appendix 3

Procedure For Managing Suspected Drugs-Related Incident

These procedures will be carried out under the following circumstances

- **When a pupil or pupils display unusual or inappropriate behaviour which leads the member of staff to suspect that the pupil is under the influence of a drug.**
 1. The member of staff will send for another teacher preferably the designated teacher for drugs
 2. Together they will determine whether the pupil has taken a controlled drug
 3. The designated teacher will inform the Principal
 4. If the pupil is suspected of taking a controlled drug the Principal will inform the police and the pupil's parents
 5. The pupil's parents will be asked to come to the school
 6. Principal and parent will decide if the pupil needs medical attention
 7. Principal will inform relevant bodies – Community and Schools Involvement Officer (CSIO), Board of Governors, Designated Officer in Education Authority 'Western Region'
 8. The Principal will write a report of the incident for the Board of Governors and Education Authority 'Western Region'

- **When a pupil, parent member of staff or other adult, reports having seen a pupil with suspicious commodities or acting suspiciously.**
 1. A member of staff should be informed immediately
 2. The designated teacher will be sent for and together the staff members will interview the pupil or pupils concerned
 3. If it is suspected or reported that the pupils have taken drugs the procedures as listed above will be carried out
 4. If it is reported or suspected that the pupils have passed on or sold drugs to other pupils these pupils will also be interviewed by the designated teacher
 5. The designated teacher will take possession of any drugs or drug-related paraphernalia and store it in the school safe
 6. If it is suspected or reported that there may be more drugs in desks, cloakrooms etc these areas will be searched. A search of pupils' personal belongings will be carried out by two members of staff with the pupils' consent and in their presence
 7. If a pupil resists a search, he/she will be detained and supervised by the staff until his/her parents have arrived
 8. The designated teacher will determine if the pupils require first aid or immediate medical attention, in which case they will call an ambulance
 9. The Principal will inform parents and request them to come to school
 10. The Principal will inform the PSNI and other relevant bodies as listed above

- **When a pupil, member of staff or other adult reports having found drugs or drug-related paraphernalia on the school premises.**
 1. Any member of staff finding drugs-related paraphernalia in the school grounds will report such findings to the designated teacher for drugs
 2. Such objects may include small bottles, pill boxes, hypodermic needles, twists of paper, lighters and spent matches, ends of rolled up cigarettes, punctured cans/plastic bottles/containers, aerosols, butane gas refills and drugs themselves
 3. The designated teacher will assess the material and decide if it is necessary to alert the PSNI and/or the Education Authority 'Western Region'

All information about the pupils will be kept confidential.

All reports written by staff will be stored securely.

All cases of drug abuse will be handled sensitively and professionally.

Drug Education Programme

Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
<p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways we can look after ourselves • Safe and unsafe substances found in the home • Why we take medicine • Safety rules about taking medicine • People we can ask for help when we have a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main body parts and what they are for • Good and bad things to put in our bodies (why we need medicine when we are sick e.g. inhalers) • Safety rules at home and school for keeping medicines • Rules about taking medicines (rules for storing and taking medicine at home and at school) • People we can talk to and people we should not talk to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why it is important to take only your own medicine • Medicines are drugs! • Good drugs and harmful drugs and how to know the difference • Everyday drugs contained in tea, coffee, coke, artificial colours • More detailed information on how drugs affect different parts of the body e.g. smoking damages lungs, alcohol damages liver, banned drugs damage brain and nervous system • School rules relating to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines including inhalers • Legal and controlled drugs • Why people take drugs • Identifying and understanding influences and pressures • People who can help with questions and problems
<p>Skills</p> <p>Discussing likes and dislikes</p> <p>Making friends and being a good friend</p> <p>Taking about our feelings and concerns when we are ill</p> <p>Knowing when we need to ask for help and knowing who to ask</p> <p>Knowing how to say 'no'</p> <p>Having respect for ourselves and others</p> <p>Realising that not all older children or adults are good friends</p> <p>Standing up for our own beliefs</p>		<p>Safety procedures when using medicines</p> <p>Requesting help and advice</p> <p>Identifying dangers and risks</p> <p>Recognising our personal strengths and weaknesses</p> <p>Making and maintaining good friendships, communicating with peers and adults</p> <p>Realising that all actions have consequences – the importance of making considered decisions</p> <p>Realising the effects of advertising</p> <p>Establishing good attitudes towards controlled drugs and accepting responsibility for our own decisions and actions</p> <p>Taking responsibility for our own and other people's safety</p> <p>The importance of having leisure pursuits which are fulfilling</p>

Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse where the designated teacher for drug issues is the principal.

