

## **LITTLE CRICKETS FOREST SCHOOL – DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

1. This policy is developed as part of our ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

- Health & Safety policy
- Behaviour policy
- Bullying policy

1.1 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure including Allegations against Adults

1.2 Policy on medicines

- PSHE/RSE curriculum
- Science curriculum

The policy has been developed using national and local guidance, including NHSS guidelines, LA guidelines, schemes of work in science.

### **2. PURPOSE**

2.1 The purpose of the drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the setting.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the site
- Clarify the settings approach to drugs for staff, children, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises
- Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the setting
- Provide a basis for evaluating the settings drug education programme and management of drug-related incidents
- Reflect the settings approach to health as part of the NHSS

The drug policy applies to Little Crickets Forest School and playing fields including pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone else visiting the site. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips.

### **3. DEFINITION OF 'DRUGS'**

3.1 This policy uses the definition that a drug is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The term 'drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

#### **4. STATEMENT ON DRUGS**

4.1 Little Crickets Forest School finds it wholly unacceptable, using the premises or grounds to introduce, sell or use illegal drugs or to misuse legal drugs or substances. Appropriate steps will be taken to deal with any drug-related incidents which occur. LCFS has a policy on the administration of prescription medicines, when necessary, which conforms to LA guidelines. The first concern in managing drugs is the health & safety of the community and meeting the pastoral needs of children.

#### **5. RESPONSIBLE STAFF MEMBER**

5.1 The senior member of staff responsible for drug related issues is the Manager.

#### **6. DRUG EDUCATION**

6.1 Educational Aims and Objectives

The drug education programme is part of a whole approach to the health education of children. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to take responsibility for making informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Drug education will link in with the National Healthy School Standard and the whole ethos of promoting high self-esteem and Emotional Literacy within children.

Specific aims of the Drug Education Policy are:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- To enable children to make healthy informed choices.
- To foster and develop self-esteem
- To provide accurate information
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To practise the skills necessary to deal with a drug offer situation.
- To widen understanding about health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

6.2 Elements of the School Drugs Education Programme

The aims of imparting knowledge/understanding, skills and attitudes will be fulfilled through the teaching of the Science and PSHE/C and PE curricula and through developing the whole school ethos. The Drug Education Programme for EYF and Key Stage One, includes the following elements:

##### **Knowledge & Understanding**

1. Little Crickets Forest School policy relating to medicine;
2. Provide basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after the body;

3. The role medicines play (both prescribed and over the counter) in promoting health and reasons people use them;
4. That all drugs can be harmful if not used correctly;
5. Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents;
6. The general effects of alcohol and tobacco/e-cigarettes/vapes on the body and behaviour;
7. People who are involved with medicines (e.g. health professionals, pharmacists, shop keepers);
8. People who can help children when they have questions of concerns

### **Skills**

1. Communicating feelings such as concern about illness and taking medicines;
2. Following simple instructions;
3. Knowing when and how to get help from adults

### **Attitudes**

1. Which value their own body and recognise its uniqueness;
2. Towards medicines, health professionals and hospitals;
3. Towards the use of alcohol and cigarettes;
4. Consider their responses to media and advertising presentations of medicines, alcohol and smoking.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS**

If a drug-related incident occurs staff should:

- Inform manager and/or responsible member of staff.
- Inform parent/carer providing this does not place child at risk. (On advice from Manager.)
- Legal substances can be returned to parent/carer or disposed of safely.
- If disclosure is made by/about a child or carer, advice or information should be offered. Assess whether further action is necessary e.g. is it putting the child at risk. Consider issues of confidentiality.
- Identify the needs of those involved in any incident and decide on an appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other agency. Provide child and carer with access to further forms of support. Provide information, for example if a discarded syringe were to be found children should be warned of the dangers as a matter of priority
- Seek outside support if necessary e.g. LA, child protection officer, EWO, police etc.
- In the case of illegitimate sale of legal or illegal drugs, the manager will decide whether to inform the police – it is not a legal obligation to do so.
- All decisions and actions should be recorded. The outcome for children and community should be monitored and the effectiveness of policy and practice assessed.
- Permanent exclusion of a child is seen as a last resort.
- In the extremely unlikely event of a drug related incident the following procedures should be followed: Ascertain if there is any medical emergency, and call ambulance and follow First Aid

procedures if necessary. Remove drug/paraphernalia using gloves and place in a secure container. Liaise with LA on safe disposal of matter such as needles. Temporarily store drug/paraphernalia in a secure place.

## **8. POLICE INVOLVEMENT**

Police should be involved in any incident involving the sale or use of illegal drugs, although there is no legal obligation to give a pupil's name. The Manager will make the decision on the need to involve the police. Incidents where a parent/carer is behaving under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the premises will be judged on the circumstances and the Manager will make a decision as to whether the police should be called.

## **9. THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN**

Practitioners should be aware of the pastoral needs of children affected by drug-related issues. Concerns should be raised with the Manager, DSL, and SENCo, and appropriate support structures activated. (See section on confidentiality).

## **10. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However, requests for confidentiality should be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which Little Crickets Forest School intends to use any sensitive information: it should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a child's wishes, where possible the setting should inform the child first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger

## **11. INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS/CARERS**

In the event of any incident involving the misuse of any legal or illegal drug on school premises, the manager will take the decision as to whether parents/carers should be informed, and how they will be involved in dealing with the incident.