

Benfieldside Primary School

Drugs Policy

The drug policy for Benfieldside Primary School covers two key elements, educational entitlement and the management of drug related incidents.

Drug Education in Benfieldside Primary School

Rationale

Benfieldside Primary recognises the key role of the education service in the prevention of problematic drug use and the part that staff, in partnership with other agencies, have to play in attempting to minimise the harm of such use.

Benfieldside Primary believes that all young people are entitled to a curriculum which explores drug related issues at a stage appropriate to their development and takes account of the particular circumstances and culture of the groups and communities to which they belong. This includes those young people with special educational needs.

Drug education forms part of an overall strategy for PSHCE which aims to equip young people with the skills and knowledge to prepare them for adult life.

Aims

Benfieldside Primary aims to:

- Raise the awareness of all young people to the risks involved in using drugs in a society which tolerates a wide range of legitimate though damaging drug use.
- Assist young people to respond to drug related situations with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to make decisions relating to their emotional, social and physical well being.
- Reach out to and support those young people who are in situations involving the problematic use of drugs by themselves or others close to them.

Drug education delivery in Benfieldside Primary

Drug education is delivered by class teachers during PSHCE and science lessons. It is delivered at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 using Dansi, SEAL and other additional materials.

The overall philosophy at Benfieldside Primary School is one of informed choice, this is reflected in the approaches used. Visitors including the police and school nurse are occasionally used within school to support the programme and as a staff resource during PD days. Where visitors are used they are made aware of the school policy, where their contribution to the overall aims of the programme are discussed.

Managing Incidents

Rationale

Benfieldside Primary School recognises that a range of responses may be required in the management of drug related incidents. The school recognises the need to balance the welfare of individual children and young people and the needs of the school. The County Durham Drugs Policy will be used by the pastoral team as a reference document in the overall school strategy for drug issues.

Drug incidents are managed by a pastoral team which includes:

Headteacher

Class teacher

PSHCE co-ordinator

EWO

Governor rep for PSHCE

The school nurse may also be consulted and involved where necessary.

Aims

Benfieldside Primary School aims to:

- Support staff and young people whose drug use has become problematic through the use of internal (school nurse, EWO) and external (drugs agencies, social services) sources.
- Support young people who though not directly involved may be affected by drug use in the community through access to information and education.
- Involve parents and governors in supporting young people.

The Process

A flow chart detailing the steps taken after an incident has been identified can be found in the staffroom and has been issued to all staff.

Response to Drugs Incidents

Short Term

In the case of a medical emergency staff follow first aid procedures.

The headteacher or in his absence the deputy headteacher will be notified as a first response to any identified incident. A decision will be taken at this point as to whether other agencies need to be involved (e.g. police, social services) and how. In most cases the parent/carer will be informed of the situation, this will be done by a telephone call inviting them into school. The school recognises that the involvement of other agencies may remove the management of incidents from school jurisdiction.

In the case of injecting equipment found on school premises county guidance will be followed.

Media enquires are dealt with by the headteacher and the press office at County Hall.

Medium Term

The pastoral group meet to consider further action and agree any sanctions that might apply. Sanctions range according to the severity of the incident, however permanent exclusion will be considered only as a last resort. If a decision is taken to involve outside agencies, links are maintained to ensure young people are supported in the school environment. Incidents are recorded according to the LEA system and an internal monitoring system for the school is maintained by Mr Kerry. There maybe curriculum issues to address with the whole school either to reinforce messages or to avoid speculation by pupils. The pastoral group decide on any school follow up.

Long Term

The decisions take are revisited by the pastoral team to monitor effectiveness.

The policy is reviewed bi-annually. Date for review February 2016

Staff are made aware of the policy through staff meetings and training is given to staff on the management of incidents together with staff briefings on general drug issues.

Parents have access to the policy through the website

Reviewed February 2014

Rights and responsibilities in relation to drug issues in schools

Responsibilities

Head	Teaching staff	Governors	Pupils	Pastoral Team
Takes overall responsibility for managing drug issues.	Are aware of and follow drug policy.	Support pastoral team managing drug incidents.	Participate in drug education lessons.	Deliver an agreed drug education programme.
Deals with any media enquires.	Attend staff briefings as requested.	Attend training in drug issues.	Adhere to the school policy on drugs in school.	Attend specific training and updates.
Deals with parent enquires in relation to drug incidents.		Consider the resource implication of the drug education programme.	Provide feedback to staff on the relevancy of the programme.	Disseminate relevant information to teaching and non-teaching staff.

Rights

School Staff can expect:	Governors can expect:	Pupils can expect:	Parents can expect:
To be supported if a drug problem is identified.	To be involved in the decision making process in drug related incidents.	To be supported if a drug problem is identified.	Prompt action to any identified drug problem within school.
Disciplinary action appropriate to the drug incident.	To have adequate training to fulfil responsibilities in relation to drug issues.	Disciplinary action appropriate to the drug incident.	To have access to information about the school policy on drug education and management.
To have access to information about drugs and help available.		To have access to information about drugs and help available.	
To be provided with training to fulfil their roles in relation to drug issues.		To have a drug education programme which is relevant to need.	