

Drug Policy for Gainford C.E. Primary School – Feb 2008

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

Drug Education in Gainford C.E. Primary School

Rationale

Gainford C.E. Primary School 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 consequent upon such use.

Gainford C.E. Primary School believes that all children 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 children with special educational needs.

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

Aims

Gainford C.E. Primary School aims to:

- Raise the awareness of all children to the risks involved in using drugs in a society which tolerates a wide range of legitimate though damaging drug use.
- Assist children 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 children who are in situations involving the problematic use of drugs by themselves or others close to them.

Drug education delivery in Gainford C.E. Primary School

Drug education is delivered by teachers during Science and PHSE. It is delivered at Key Stage 1 and 2 in an appropriate form. A detailed breakdown can be found as appendix 1.

The overall philosophy at Gainford C.E. Primary School is one of informed choice, this is reflected in the approaches used. Visitors such as the school nurse are occasionally used within school to support the programme and as a staff resource during professional development. Where visitors are used they are made aware of the school policy at the first contact, where their contribution to the overall aims of the programme are discussed.

Managing Incidents.

Rationale.

Gainford C.E. 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 the needs of the school. The framework in terms of the law, confidentiality and the use of external agencies can be found in Dealing with Drugs in Durham the County policy on drugs and schools. This is 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:

The Head Teacher
Deputy Head Teacher
PHSE Co-ordinator
School Nurse (where appropriate)
EWO (where appropriate)

Aims

Gainford C.E. Primary School aims to:

- Support staff and children through drug education using internal and external sources.
- Support children 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 children when and as appropriate.

Short Term

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

The Head Teacher will be notified as a first response to any identified incident. A decision will be taken at this point whether other agencies need to be involved (Police, Social Services) and how. In most cases the parent/carer will be informed of the situation by the school, this will be done by inviting them into school.

In case of injecting equipment found on school premises it will be placed in a safe container until the police or environmental health can be contacted for disposal.

Media enquiries will be dealt with by the Head Teacher who will take advice from the media unit of LA when appropriate

Medium Term

The pastoral team identified in the rationale will meet to consider further action and agree any sanctions that may 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 an outside agency links are kept to ensure that children are supported in the school environment. This is done through (Pastoral, welfare, EWO School Nurse etc.). Incidents are monitored through the county LEA system and a record of steps taken is kept within school. There may be curriculum issues to address with the whole school either to reinforce messages or to avoid speculation by pupils. The pastoral group decide any whole school follow up.

Long Term

The decisions taken above are revisited by the pastoral team to ensure policy effectiveness.

The policy is reviewed annually.

Staff are made aware of the policy through the staff handbook where their responsibilities are clearly stated. Training is given to staff on the management of incidents together with staff briefings on general drug issues.

Like all policies, the drug policy is available for parents to inspect in the school office and on the school website

Children are made aware of the policy through their PHSE and Science lessons.

HB Feb 2008