

## **Holymead Primary School**

### **Holymead Primary School Drugs Education Policy**

#### **Introduction**

**Name of School:** Holymead Primary School

**Date of Policy:** May 2018

**PSHE/Drugs Ed Co-ordinator:** Mrs Alyx Hunt/ Miss C O'Toole/ Ms K Slatcher (Head Teacher)

**Review Date:** May 2020

#### **Definition- What is a Drug?**

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances (solvents) and illegal drugs.

#### **Principles**

Every drug, whatever its legal or social status, has the potential to cause physical or other harm. The fact that a wide variety of drugs are commonly and extensively available make it vital for children and young people to receive relevant drug education. It should not be delivered in isolation but should be firmly embedded in the PSHE curriculum provided by the school. Many attitudes, behaviours and skills are common to other aspects of health education. The school aims to encourage pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging their attitudes and improving their skills.

We also believe that the misuse of any drugs on the school premises cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individual concerned.

Fundamental to the school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of children with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

This school is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and will work together with parents and the local community to encourage pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.



**Article 17:** Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, and newspapers should provide information that children can understand and should not promote materials that could harm them.

**Article 36:** Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

## **Aims**

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the science curriculum and the PSHE scheme of work, Jigsaw.
- To provide accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco.
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs.
- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
- To establish a school environment which is free from the misuse of any drugs.
- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug-related incidents.
- To respond to any individual within the school community in need of support and protection.

## **Practice**

Effective substance use and misuse education is best achieved through a whole-school approach. Teaching strategies are required which address and provide for all three main constituents of drug education. These are knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. Therefore teaching methods will include a rich variety of opportunities for active learning, and will use didactic input sparingly. The range of strategies will include individual and small group discussion, role-play and circle time. The development of ground rules with pupils when teaching about drugs and other PSHE areas, will facilitate discussion of sensitive issues. The school will ensure access to comprehensive, unbiased and accurate information.

## **Procedures**

Medicines:	See school policies which refer to the administration of medicines e.g. Asthma awareness.
Tobacco:	All of the school premises are a no smoking area.
Alcohol:	No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day.
Volatile substances:	The school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely, and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosols will be banned because of the potential risks to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.
Illegal substances:	No illegal substances should be brought to school or used on school premises.



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## **Dealing with a drug related incident**

This school believes we should be a community free of drug misuse. Illegal substances should not be brought into school and use or supply of drugs on the school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness and appropriate authorities informed.

The school will decide when and if to inform the police. A record of all drug related incidents will be kept by our head teacher. Evidence of drug use by a pupil or possession of a substance will be dealt with appropriately. Each case will be assessed and different levels of sanctions will be used according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil's involvement. Fixed-term or permanent exclusions may be used where appropriate.

## **Review and monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE co-ordinator in consultation with other staff as appropriate if changes occur or at a frequency not less than every two years.

Dated: May 2018

Review date: May 2020

Agreed by:

Kate Slatcher (Head Teacher)

Caron O'Toole / Alyx Hunt (PSHE Coordinator & SLT)



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