

Introduction.

At Chaigeley every child and young person should have the opportunity to reach their potential. It is recognised that drug and alcohol misuse can significantly affect the future potential of them achieving any of the 5 key outcomes of Every Child Matters.

In keeping with the school's mission statement and DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools (Sept 2012), Chaigeley is committed to safeguarding the health and safety of its children and staff and therefore condones neither the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school community, nor the illegal supply of these substances. The following policy has been developed using a multi agency approach.

"Drugs" refers to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and "legal highs" (source reference is the above Guidance Document)

Aims.

- ❖ To provide children with factual information, emphasising the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as part of the Healthy Schools agenda and to develop children's knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices about illegal substances.
- ❖ To inform and educate children to ensure that they are not adversely affected by the use of illegal substances.
- ❖ To keep Parents/Carers informed so that they participate in the sharing of responsibility for educating their children about the risks of taking illegal substances
- ❖ To enable children to recognise and develop the skills to resist pressure or encouragement to misuse illegal substances from peers or adults.
- ❖ To enable children to identify sources of counselling and support if they have a problem and as part of a restorative process
- ❖ To work in partnership with other agencies so that the school responds appropriately to children involved in the misuse of drugs
- ❖ To ensure that staff receive the appropriate training and support to deal with drug related problems within our school community

Actions.

- Children are educated about illegal substances through the taught curriculum (mainly Science) and as part of a broader programme in Personal, Social and Health Education. In addition to this there is an informal programme of health education that is cross curricular and one which includes the 24-hour curriculum
- Drug education at Chaigeley is taught sensitively, it should be relevant and appropriate to age and ability. It should take into account the children's background and personal experiences, their ethnic and cultural origins.

- The school recognises alcohol and drug misuse as an illness and encourages those who believe that they may have such a dependence to seek help. This issue should be addressed sensitively and in a non judgemental way
- Parents / Carers will be informed each time their child is involved in the misuse of drugs within our school community. This will be followed by information leaflets and support from school if required.
- Chaigeley will help children to develop the confidence and skills to make sensible choices. They are encouraged to think and work independently across the curriculum and be responsible for their own behaviour
- Experienced staff are available throughout the day and evening to listen to children who require support and guidance.
- If a child is suspected or there is strong suspicion of the pupil having illegal substances on their person (including legal highs) staff will inform the senior leadership team who are able to search the child and confiscate any findings, reporting to the police if appropriate.
- Chaigeley continues to work in partnership with health, police, social services and other external agencies to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse
- The school continues to provide training for staff through its CPD programme and regular meetings

This policy has been adapted from the Policy Guidelines used by Warrington Schools.

Committee	Date Amended/Created	Review Date
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