



Emersons Green Primary School

## **DRUG POLICY**

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# SCHOOL DRUG POLICY

## SECTION ONE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

**Name of school: Emersons Green Primary School**

**Description of School: We are a school with a Resource Base for children with visual and .....needs. We have 216 pupils in our school.**

**Date of policy approval: Draft**

**Date of policy review: April 2007**

Signature of head teacher:

Signature of governor:

Signature of key personnel responsible for dealing with drug policy and related incidents:

### **Local and National Guidance**

This policy has been updated following the publication of the new Drugs In Schools guidance 2004.

In addition, the following guidance has been consulted whilst revising the policy;

- South Gloucestershire Drug Action Team Young Peoples Needs Assessment 2002
- South Glos Suggested Actions 2004 – **see appendix**
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco education: curriculum guidance for schools at key stage 1-4 ( QCA 2002)
- National Curriculum 2000 Statutory Science Orders
- *National Healthy School Standard Guidance 2001*
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs: a good practice guide and circular 14/96

### **The purpose of the policy is to:**

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Respond to any individual within the school community in need of support
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national

- strategies.
- Establish an atmosphere/environment/situation in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs.

## **SECTION TWO DRUG EDUCATION AND STAFF TRAINING**

### **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 the body works.

The policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

### **Rationale**

Current research indicates that drug use both legal and illegal has risen amongst young people. As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate young people about drug use. Drugs are a reality in young people's lives; schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills. We also believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned.

### **Drug Education**

Drug education in this school aims to enable all our pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills. It will also enable pupils to identify sources of confidential advice and support as school staff are unable to guarantee absolute confidence in serious cases of drug misuse.

The programme we follow will be based on national guidelines provided by the DfES and will be sensitive to the age and experience of our pupils. It will be delivered through the existing curriculum, mainly the National Curriculum Science Order and Personal, Social, Health and Education. Sample schemes of work demonstrating progression of drug education across the key stages are outlined in **the appendices**

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils. It will be delivered by all staff but may be based on the work of a specialist team. *If a specialist teacher team – specify. Outline the arrangements for timetabling, staffing and teaching.* All staff will be provided with adequate training and support to help them deliver effective drug education and respond to situations with consistency and sensitivity, taking account of religious, social and cultural issues. As part of staff induction and on-going training, we will contact the LEA school drug advisor for details of training programmes, including INSET-training events.

Outside agencies such as the police, connexions, Young Peoples Drug & Alcohol Service, school health nurse and other professionals will be used to complement the programme, following the guidelines for working with outside agencies.

The programme will be evaluated on a regular basis through pupil feedback and staff discussions. Our school has a Drugs scheme of work which begins in the foundation stage and continues throughout Key stage 1 and 2.

Parents are invited to a meeting when the children are in Year 6 which outlines the content of a course of work entitled 'substance misuse'. Children look at the harmful effects of smoking, drinking alcohol and using illegal and legal drugs..

Any pupil who has been identified as vulnerable by an adult or peer will contact the Head so as to decide on the next steps.

## **Methodology and Resources**

### **SECTION THREE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

#### **Management of Drug-related Incidents**

A designated member of staff will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies, including the media.

The designated member of staff coordinating is Mrs Jan Isaac.

#### **Procedures**

Medicines	- See school policy on administration of medicines.
Tobacco	- Refer to Council's No Smoking policy and
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 aerosol deodorants will be discouraged because of the risks to people with asthma or other bronchial
potentiall problems.	
Illegal Substances	- No illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on school premises.

Sanctions of appropriate severity will be applied to the intentional misuse of any of the substances above by any member of the school community on the school premises or while on school trips and visits. To protect the health and safety of everyone in the school, regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly syringes, are cleared away.

A range of sanctions as outlined in the DfES Guidance (page 67), up to and including permanent exclusion, will be applied for:

- Possession of any drug with the suspected intention to misuse.
- Misuse of drugs on school premises.
- Supply/dealing drugs for the purpose of misuse.

### **Dealing with Drug Related Incidents**

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

Appendix 1.2 describes how this school will deal with a range of incidents. The school will decide when and if to inform the Police (in accordance with Police guidelines). The School Drug Advisor will be informed of all of Drug Related incidents, and records kept using the attached flow chart and incident form.

Evidence of drug use by a pupil or possession of a substance will not necessarily result in automatic exclusion. 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.

The misuse of illegal drugs, prescription medicines or problem drinking by staff should be regarded as a health matter rather than an immediate case for disciplinary action. (DfES guidance 2004 page 123)

### **Advice and Support for Pupils**

Information about local drugs and support services will be provided for pupils and parents but staff of the school will not give individual advice to pupils about their personal drug use. All young people can be referred to South Gloucestershire's Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Service on 01454 868763 for advice, information, support and counselling.

### **Confidentiality**

School staff should be made aware that they cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured unless unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibility in relation to:

Child protection; Cooperating with a police investigation, referral to external services.

Every effort should be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. If confidentiality needs to be broken the pupil should be informed first and school should endeavour to explain why this needs to happen.

### **Dissemination**

This policy may be attached to/included in the school brochure and/or the staff handbook and copies will be available in the school office.

The procedure for the management of drug related incidents will be agreed by staff and governors, of which all parents and pupils will be made aware.

**The context of the policy and its relationship to other policies**

This policy links to behaviour, health and safety, medicines, confidentiality, pastoral support, healthy schools, school visits and child protection.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Date for next review meeting: April 2007