

## Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

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Although the school is part of the ACE academy this is a Brixham Policy		

### *John 10:10*

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Our school's approach to this policy follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. It is underpinned by Our Vision of '*Life in all its fullness*' and ensures that all of school life incorporates the values of the Christian Faith. These values are central to all that we do and determine how we will implement all policies and procedures. We want to ensure that through our gateways of citizenship, leadership, expression, exploration and flourishing, all pupils and adults are shown how to be compassionate, passionate, honest, inspiring and responsible individuals. By starting with our vision, we aim to ensure that all members of our school community understand our expectations, our practise and the ways in which we will implement this Policy.

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## 1. Introduction

In 2004 the DfES updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) schemes of work. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the Local Education Authority (LEA), and guidance from the local Drug Action team.

## 2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

## 3. Brixham Church of England Primary School Statement

Brixham C of E Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work and learn and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

## 4. Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs and *substances*:

- all *illegal* drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971);
- all *legal* drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

### 5.1 The Headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this drugs policy.
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively.
- manage any drug-related incidents.
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme.
- monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

### 5.2 The Local Committee will:

- support the Headteacher to adhere to the policy
- support the Headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions based on drug related incidents.

## 6. Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs and substances and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding.
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings.
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs.
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem.
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents/carers, governors and staff.
- ensure that those who may be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community, receive appropriate support.

## 7. Drugs education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2 pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional users.

We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents/carers or family members.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time and in specific sessions i.e. Life Education Centre visits. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course we follow the DfES and LEA guidelines.

The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by health authorities or by the LEA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

## **8. Possession and use of drugs at school**

### **8.1 Medicines**

Pupils may not bring prescribed medication into school themselves. Parents may register the need to administer medicines with the office. Where pupils have medical needs the following applies:

- parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication.
- parents must bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. records will be kept of all medication received and given.
- emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in the office.

### **8.2 Hazardous substances**

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids and other potentially harmful substances.

### **8.2 Legal drugs**

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking/vaping is not permitted anywhere in the school.

Alcohol to be consumed at community, social or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act, 1983.

## **9. Managing drug related incidents**

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

If a pupil is suspected of concealing illegal or unauthorised substances staff will search a pupil's personal belongings. This may be carried out without consent however, there will always be two staff present. Pupils will be asked to voluntarily hand over any drugs or unauthorised substances on their person. Where the individual refuses and the school wishes to proceed, the police may be called.

If staff members are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, senior staff should be called. Staff matters will be dealt with under school disciplinary procedures.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents/carers; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

The Headteacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

A full record will be made of any incident.

The Headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

## **10. The role of parents/carers**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents/carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- inform parents/carers about the school drugs policy.
- answer any questions parents/carers may have about the drugs education their child receives in school.
- take seriously any issue which parents/carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school.
- inform parents/carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents/carers can support the key messages being given to children at school.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents/carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

## **11. Safeguarding**

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures and possibly the involvement of the police.

## **12. Monitoring and reviewing**

The Local Committee will monitor the drugs policy on an annual basis.

The Local Committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents/carers about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

### **Policy Links**

Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection