



**Drugs Policy
January 2008**

Lakenham Primary School Drugs Policy

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the PSHE policy, medicines policy, health and safety/smoking policy, SEN and behaviour policy. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of this policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/residential etc.

Definition: "Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Drug Education: The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

(i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education-

- Key Stage 1, 5-7 year olds should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines
- Key Stage 2, 7-11 year olds should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

(ii) Other discretionary topics (delivered through Circle Time, Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship) reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills: this will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

The **content** of the schools Drug Education Programme (which is based on Appendix 2 of **Drugs: guidance for schools**) is set out in the school PSHE&C Policy and Scheme of Work)

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors should be used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LA, police, health and drug agencies.

Statutory duty of the school: The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Implementation of the policy: In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows. It should be noted here that, when dealing with drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as laid out in *Drugs: guidance for schools* (Reference: DfES/0092/2004) and that all staff, parents/carers and pupils will be reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken (see Appendix C); parents/carers will be informed by the head teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate
- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be taken by the head teacher, who will inform the parents/carers (please refer to the school behaviour policy)
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the head teacher in consultation with governors and staff who know the young person well
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix B: all staff, pupils, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.
- The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. Additional support and advice is available from the School Drugs Adviser and LA Communication Officer Education

All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

APPENDIX A : Drug situation – medical emergencies

APPENDIX B : Situations involving drugs without medical authority

APPENDIX C : Record of drug-related situation (a specimen record sheet)

Policy written: January 2008

Policy reviewed:

Date of next Planned Review: January 2011