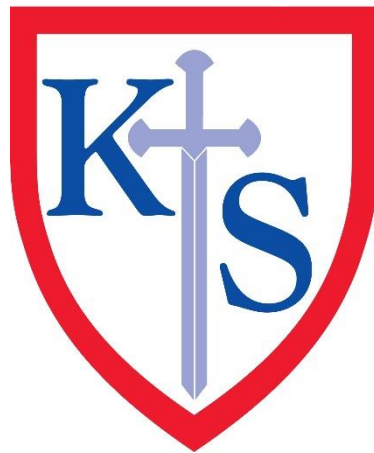


Kingsland CE Primary School

Drugs Education Policy



Let your light shine

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine on our vision:

As God's children, overflowing with His light, we will shine before others to inspire, nurture and bring joy so all may embrace life in its fullness to the glory of God.

April 2024

Kingsland CE Primary School

Drugs Education Policy



Date for full implementation: April 2024
Review date: April 2028

Our vision

At Kingsland CE Primary School, our vision is for every child and every adult to 'Let their lights shine' and to experience life in all its fullness. We do this through ensuring a safe environment in our school, promoting respect for ourselves and all others and engendering a sense of community and responsibility in all.

We recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Our children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- give a clear view on the use of drugs in school
- provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school
- give information about what is taught and how it is taught
- give guidance to teachers, support staff, parents and visitors about drug education.

How should we define 'drugs'?

The definition of a drug adopted by the school and in reference to the DfE document [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012](#) is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This refers to both legal and illegal drugs:

- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS – formerly known as 'legal highs'), GHB, anabolic steroids and khat
- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18 year olds including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents)
- Drugs that are legal to use and buy such as poppers, caffeine drinks
- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Aims and Objectives

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Curriculum Organisation

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. We encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class.

Drugs education is an important part of the school's [RSHE curriculum](#) and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) provision. We teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs. The children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. When available, the 'Crucial Crew' training for Year 6 forms a part of the school's drugs awareness programme. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher may seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in 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.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The headteacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Role of Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will ensure that this policy is implemented.

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- invite parents to view the RSHE materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy through the parent governors and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Monitoring and Review

The 'Love to Learn' committee of the governing body will monitor the Drugs Education Policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme.