



Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy

Introduction

Drugs Education is an important element of the Academy’s work in preparing children for adult life. We are committed to helping children understand the importance of making healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

Responsible Persons

The Deputy Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented in the Academy.

Relevant Legislation

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, Education and Inspection Act 2006.

Associated Policies

Sex and Relationship Education Policy, Safeguarding, Equal Opportunities and Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

Rationale

Current research indicates that use, both legal and illegal, has risen amongst young people. As a result of this, schools share the responsibility with parents to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drugs use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills.

At Four Acres Academy we believe that drugs education should provide:-

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in a challenging and safe atmosphere where they feel secure enough to play a full and active part

We aim to provide a consistency of approach throughout the school and to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. At Four Acres we encourage children to develop positive attitudes and values and to ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed when dealing with incidents/equipment related to drugs and drug use. Welfare of pupils is paramount and procedures and policies are designed to reflect this commitment.

The teaching of drugs education at Four Acres Academy reflects the Academy’s ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community

Aims

This policy is a working document, which provides guidance and information on all aspects of Drugs Education in the Academy for staff, parents/carers and governors.

It is the aim of the staff and governors that through a programme of drug education delivered in partnership with parents, pupils in this Academy will:

- To develop children’s personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- To encourage children to help and support others.
- To clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false knowledge and beliefs.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils’ decision-making skills and increased self-esteem.
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use.
- To ensure all staff are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use at Four Acres Academy.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The Academy is committed to the provision of drugs education to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of the children’s cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions when children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are given extra support.

Definition

At Four Acres ‘drugs’ include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Medicines
- Illegal substances
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Content

Drugs education is part of the planned PSHE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of Science and through circle time. The PSHE framework outlines the areas to be covered each year. The NC guidelines for science require that children are taught:-

- At KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines
- At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

Cross-curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the schools’ ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum. Resources for drug education are stored with the PSHE resources.

Teaching

Our approach to drugs education is one which children are given information in the belief that increased knowledge about drugs and the risks will empower children to make informed and safe decisions. We approach this in a sensitive manner appropriate to the age and experiences of the children concerned.

Teaching is:-

- Well resourced
- Reflects the needs and experiences of pupils
- Uses a range of teaching methods including group work, discussions, videos and outside speakers
- Reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles
- Flexible and relevant
- In the context of a wider PSHE programme
- Interesting and stimulating
- Informed

Outside visitors

If outside speakers are used in any aspect of the drugs education programme, their contribution will be properly planned. They will support the work of the teacher who will meet with the speaker beforehand to plan the work and explain the school’s policy on drug education. Teachers will be present and involved in all sessions and will evaluate the work afterwards. The teacher has overall responsibility for the session and the work planned. Training, monitoring and evaluation Teaching and learning is monitored in relation to this agree policy and the school’s Teaching and Learning policy. The PHSE coordinator has responsibility for monitoring drug education teaching and learning in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Working with Parents

The Academy is committed to working with parents and they will be notified annually via the class curriculum letter as to the nature of drugs education teaching for that year.

Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues

Teachers conduct drugs education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child is believed to be at risk or in danger then the member of staff involved will report concerns to the named Child Protection Officer who takes action in accordance with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. All staff are familiar with the policy and know who the designated Child Protection Officer is.

Policy Monitoring

The Deputy Head teacher, PSHE lead and teachers teaching drugs education are jointly responsible for ensuring that the policy requirements are met and that a varied response to the aims are met. This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis or when there is a change of legislation, whichever is sooner.

This policy and procedure was adopted by the Directors on: Date / /

Signed:

Director 1 Robert Lane

Director 2 Adam Lane

Signature:

Signature:

Date:

Date

This policy and procedure was published on: **Date**

Signed: R Barfoot

This policy and procedure is due for revision on: **Date**