



Mill Hill
Primary Academy
INSPIRING CREATIVITY & ACHIEVEMENT

Policy for Drugs and Substance Mis-use

Review Date: January 2019

Next Review Date: January 2020

Introduction

Mill Hill Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices and to discourage the misuse of drugs. We believe that:

- We have a duty to inform children about drug education.
- The misuse of any drugs by members of the academy community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with fairly, consistently and clearly with regards to the needs of the academy and the individuals concerned.

Definition

'Drugs' include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:-

- **Tobacco**
- **Alcohol**
- **Medicines**
- **Illegal substances**

Key Aim. The aim of this policy is to:

- Clarify the academy's approach to drugs, for staff and pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities:
- Give guidance to staff on the academy's drugs education programme:
- Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our academy;
- Enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly

Objectives:

Drugs education should contribute to:

- Increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- Reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- Reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

At Mill Hill Primary Academy we believe that drugs education should provide:-

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to other adults besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- 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

Drugs education is delivered through the teaching of Science and PSHE. 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 through the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), physical education, and aspects of academy life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Teaching

Our approach to drugs education is one through 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.

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 and in line with the academy approach of using the Accelerated learning Cycle.

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 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.

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 PSHCE programme
- Interesting, stimulating and 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 liaise with the speaker beforehand to plan the work and explain the academy'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.

Drugs incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the academy's commitment to:-

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drugs

The Headteacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents in conjunction with the Deputy Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Designated Person Responsible for Safeguarding – as is deemed appropriate. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent or member of staff.

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in academy is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or legal but unauthorised drugs, rather than illegal drugs.

- Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting Police guidance regarding 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.
- Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays etc. Parents must be informed.
- The Head Teacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the academy will manage the incident internally.
- A full record will be made of any incident.
- The Head Teacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

In the event of a disclosure:

There may be times during discussions about drugs when children make disclosures. Where this is the case, the member of staff should sensitively listen to what the child has to say whilst also avoiding further disclosures in front of the class. In order to follow child protection procedures as soon as is reasonable, the class teacher should pass on their concerns to **Mrs Bates/Mrs Moore/Mrs Salih**, the designated persons for safeguarding and child protection. That member of staff will follow the agreed procedures for disclosure handling and completion of a record of concern on CPOMS.

The role of parents

We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the academy drugs policy;
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our academy;
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in academy;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the academy;

- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the academy policy, 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 academy;
- It might also be appropriate for the academy nurse to be invited into academy to discuss issues relating to drugs with parents and staff as and when the need arises.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent. 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 should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police. **If the parent appears incapable of being responsible or safe or beyond a safe measure of intoxication, staff must not release the child to the parent, but must inform Mrs Bates/Mrs Moore/Mrs Salih immediately.**

Safeguarding Children

Mill Hill Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service [DBS]. If we have any concerns with regards to safeguarding relating to our children, we have a duty of care to report it to the Designated Person(s) responsible for Safeguarding – **Mrs Bates/Mrs Moore/Mrs Salih:**

Please refer to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Provision of information

The academy will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LA and through the City Learning Trust for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Linked Policies/Documents

- Local Offer and SEN Report.
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Asthma and Medicines Policy.
- Code of Conduct – Academy Staff.
- Unacceptable behaviour of Visitors Policy.

Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed annually.