

# Drugs Education Policy and Guidelines



## Introduction

At Bridgewater our policies are regularly reviewed. This reflects current practice within school and all related government guidance and statutory requirements.

This policy is formed by:

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Association scheme of work;  
Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES/0092/2004)

The Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education PSHCE Coordinator is responsible for writing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs education policy. Others involved are:

- Head Teacher
- Link Governor for PSHCE
- Governors
- Senior Management Team and all other staff.

## Purpose

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and ensure that 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.

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport and school visits, trips or residential.

Bridgewater School's Drugs Education Policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school approach and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. Bridgewater will not tolerate the use of drugs or associated paraphernalia.

The policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drugs-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the PSHCE policy, medicines in school policy, health and safety policy, no smoking policy and behaviour policy where there are significant areas of overlap. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with staff and parents/carers.

## **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 and their associated paraphernalia 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 the 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.

## **Aims and objectives**

Through drugs education we aim to:

- promote accurate information about substances (i.e., drugs, alcohol and tobacco) and therefore enable all pupils to make healthy choices;
- provide strategies for children to cope effectively in the face of temptation;
- widen an understanding about health and social issues (e.g., sex and sexuality, HIV/AIDS, crime);
- offer help, support and understanding for those children experiencing substance use and misuse within the close family circle;
- communicate effectively and co-operate with parents and the community on drug-related issues.

## **Curriculum**

At Bridgewater School Drugs Education is taught through the guidance of the PSHE Association schemes of work.

Drug education will occur through a planned PSHE programme and where possible, through circle time and role play. Visitors will also be invited to enrich the provision where necessary (e.g. Gibber Theatre Company, Policy Education and Prevention (PEP) Team, School Nurse).

Our children need to know the dangers of using drugs if they come into contact with them in their local area.

We aim to educate all of our children, including those with special educational needs, on the dangers of drugs. It is therefore important that teachers have access to ongoing advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. Useful organisations and websites are listed in Appendix E.

## **Community Liaison**

School Nurse and Local Authority (LA)

Work with local agencies e.g. Police

PEP Team

Gibber Theatre Company

## **Handling drug-related incidents in school**

When a drug-related incident occurs, we at Bridgewater School will refer to the flow chart provided by Newcastle PEP Team (Appendix B).

### **What is the incident?**

- Finding substance/paraphernalia on premises
- Disclosure of use by pupil
- Disclosure of use by pupil re: parent or carer
- Pupil found dealing/using on premises
- Pupil found dealing/using offsite
- School aware of drugs being sold in vicinity

### **What action would be taken?**

1. Inform Head and Drug Co-ordinator (also child protection coordinator where appropriate).
2. Dispose of substance.
3. Contact parent and police (where necessary).

### **Which agencies would be involved?**

Police, LA Drugs advisory staff, PEP Team, Matrix, Child Protection Agencies.

### **Reporting Procedures**

- Any incidences must be reported to the Drug Education Coordinator and Head Teacher.
- Decisions and actions will be made following the flowchart from the Policy Education and Prevention (PEP) Team.
- The substance will be recorded and other agencies contacted (where appropriate).
- The School will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident.
- At Bridgewater School we will consider excluding a child if they are found with illegal substances on the premises.
- The governing body will be informed of any drug-related incidences.

### **The Head Teacher**

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the drugs education policy and for 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.

### **The appendix pack is found at the Head Teacher's office.**

Appendix A: PSHE Scheme of Work

Appendix B: Responding to incidents related to drugs

Appendix D: Drug situations: medical emergencies (Drugs: Guidance for Schools, February 2004)

Appendix E: Useful organisations and websites. (Drugs: Guidance for Schools, February 2004)

**Policy reviewed:** Feb 2021

**Next review:** May 2024