

Barlow CofE (VC) Primary School

Policy Statement on Substance Use and Misuse

A drug is a substance which, when admitted to the body, may alter how the body functions, affect the working of the brain, change moods, feelings or perceptions or alter behaviour.

Given this definition drugs include medicines, over-the-counter preparations, tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, volatile substances (solvents), poppers and substances which are unlawful, for example, cannabis, amphetamines, LSD and heroin.

This broad definition encompasses drugs which may be regarded as generally helpful (e.g. medicines), ones which are socially acceptable (e.g. alcohol) and those which are illegal. All drugs, however, have the potential to be harmful.

Drug misuse is the inappropriate use of a substance which is unlawful or which results in the user being impaired in relation to their need to function properly in a specific place and time. Drug misuses therefore includes:

1. Unlawful possession or use of a substance.
2. Unlawful supply or intention to supply a drug.
3. Inappropriate use of a drug because of place, time, task or responsibility.
4. Use of medicines not in accordance with instructions.
5. Use of drugs in ways which are harmful to health.

Policy Application

This policy applies to anybody on the school premises and involved with events and activities which are part of the extended curriculum on or off the school site.

Position Statement

1. The school does not condone the misuse of drugs by any member of the school community, nor the illegal supply of drugs.
2. The school is committed to the health, safety and welfare of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
3. The school acknowledges the importance of the welfare of its members and will therefore seek to create a climate of understanding whereby persons in need of support may feel comfortable in coming forward.
4. We believe that responsibility for our children's education is jointly shared between the school and their parents and therefore we shall communicate with parents on drug issues as and when the need arises.
5. As a school we have a duty of care for everyone who enters our premises.

Prevention/Education

Through the PSHE curriculum and the pastoral system we will pursue the following aims regarding drug use and misuse:

1. To promote each child's self esteem and to value themselves as unique, creative and caring individuals irrespective of their academic abilities.
2. To enable the children to make responsible, healthy and informed choices by increasing their knowledge and understanding.
3. To increase awareness and understanding about the implications and possible legal, social, economic and health consequences of the use and misuse of drugs.
4. To enable the children to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will have responsibility for dealing with outside agencies. In the event of any contact with the media the Headteacher will respond after seeking advice, guidance and support from appropriate sources, e.g. NYCC.

Role of the Governors

To enable the Governors of Barlow School to play a full part in this aspect of school life, a Governor needs to volunteer to undertake training to develop awareness and understanding of substance issues. This Governor will then be able to act as a supportive link to the Headteacher.

Good Practice

The influence of adults as positive role models is vital. This can be achieved by:

1. No body to smoke on school premises as law states.
2. Adults being alcohol-free whilst being responsible for children where the school has the responsibility for their health and welfare.
3. Adults being unimpaired in carrying out their duties and responsibilities by reason of medication or other drug use.

Dealing with drug-related incidents in school

The school will consider each drug-related incident on its merits. At all times the well-being of the individual concerned will be paramount regardless of the legal status of any substance alleged to be involved.

In any instances of inappropriate drug use the Headteacher must be informed. The Headteacher will speak to the teacher of the child involved. If it appears that a drug related incident has occurred, although there is no legal obligation to do so, the Headteacher will decide how and when parents are contacted with a view to the school and parents working together to help the child. The school may inform the police but are under no legal obligation to do so.

Confidentiality

A member of staff cannot guarantee total confidentiality and this should be made clear to all concerned. If confidentiality is required by an individual then they can be told of services in the community which will offer this.

Substances found at school

Any substance suspected of being a controlled drug which is found on the school site should be notified to the Headteacher who will arrange for the police to dispose of it.

Drug information/general awareness

We at Barlow School recognise that substance use and misuse is an issue for the whole community and it is ever changing. As a public service we will from time to time enable parents and the wider community to increase their awareness and understanding of this by a variety of means including written information or meetings.

Reviewed February 2016