

# EMMBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



## DRUGS POLICY

**Responsibility of: Curriculum and Pupil Achievement (CPA) Committee**

**Date of Policy:** July 2016

**Date of Review:** June 2018

### 2014 Mission Statement

**The Emmbrook Junior School community works together to further develop each child's abilities by creating a nurturing and motivating environment for learning. Each child's self-confidence will be strengthened so they make good academic progress whilst gaining increasing resilience and respect for the community.**

### **Aim**

The aim of the drugs education policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and to ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.

A drugs education policy ensures that schools take a whole-school approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education, and pupils who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents. This policy relates to the PSHE policy, behaviour policy and health and safety policy.

### **Definition**

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs, including alcohol, in school or during the school day is inappropriate, apart from prescription or over-the-counter medication that is controlled and administered by staff. If staff bring in such medication it is to be kept in a locked cabinet or similar. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises

during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

### **Statutory Duty of School**

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, in liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Local Authority (LA) and appropriate outside bodies and other trained staff, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

### **Drugs Education**

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

1. enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
2. promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
3. provide accurate information about substances
4. increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
5. encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
6. enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

On the whole, class teachers teach drug education through PSHE, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school drugs policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively cooperates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

### **Implementation**

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Head Teacher. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to a member of staff, to using or supplying substances off the premises, the Head Teacher should be informed. The Head Teacher will inform the young person's parents/carers and any other contact in relation to fulfilling safeguarding requirements.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises

to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or by calling the non emergency Police number, 101.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the LA Policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The Head Teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remain in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

#### **Dissemination**

This policy will be disseminated to all staff and the Governing Body. Copies will be available in the school office for parents to acquire if requested.

#### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The Governing Body will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

#### **Approved by Governing Body**

**Chair of Governors**                      **Date 19.07.2016**

**Head Teacher**                              **Date 19.07.2016**