

Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy

This Policy applies to the whole school and is published to staff, pupils and parents

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This policy should be read in conjunction with the whole school policy on Drugs and Drug Testing

Longridge Towers School is a 3 - 19 school. Whilst understanding that in legal terms, in Scotland a young person is deemed an adult at 16, and in England an adult at 18, the following policy aids the School in the managing of appropriate behaviour and its duties in safeguarding all members of the School community. Therefore, for the purpose of clarity, the term pupil in this context encompasses those who are registered to attend classes regardless of age and legal status as an adult. We expect all pupils to abide by our school rules and policies, irrespective of their age.

Mission Statement

We will provide a holistic education where pupils are nurtured to become independent, confident, collaborative, innovative and life-long learners whilst fulfilling their potential; we will also purposefully engage individuals in a community where everyone feels happy, safe, valued and encouraged.

Aims

We aim to ensure that pupils:

- Are happy and safe within a collaborative and innovative learning environment
- Make progress and achieve their full potential academically, socially, physically and personally; and have the skills, knowledge and understanding to express themselves creatively, artistically, emotionally and spiritually as mature adults
- Foster effective relationships, open communication and engage in critical thinking; with each other, with their families, and with adults inside and outside of School
- Value learning as a lifelong experience that will continue into the world of work and of leisure
- Develop independence as well as a sense of citizenship with a direct responsibility to the community and to society as a whole.

Rationale

Reference to ‘drugs’ is an emotive issue. Citizens can be anxious about the effects of drug misuse and there is not always clarity in society’s understanding of the issues. Different groups in society have different perceptions of the dangers and acceptability of different drug types. Drugs and alcohol education with pupils can cause alarm and yet is essential if we are to equip our children and young people with the necessary skills, understanding and knowledge to move confidently into adult life.

We have a responsibility to inform our pupils of the facts relating to the substances they will and do encounter in their environment. It is important that we are sensitive to the experiences that our pupils may have. This Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy is part of our overall approach to health and well-being. Through our PHSE curriculum and school ethos we aim to ensure that our pupils recognise the importance of their choices and the consequences poor choices may have. Self-respect and a healthy lifestyle are all part of an approach which will enable our pupils to make informed lifestyle choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

Definition of ‘drugs’ for the benefit of this policy

The term refers to a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes:

All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (in the context of their intended use), vapes

All over the counter and prescription medicines

All illegal drugs

Purpose

At Longridge Towers School we believe that each child should have the opportunity to learn and to achieve to their highest attainable level. We strive to meet the needs of all children and young people across the spectrum of abilities, regardless of age, sex, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or social background and taking account of their individual talents and any special educational needs.

We will provide in a safe and welcoming setting, Drugs and Alcohol Education that is challenging, interesting, informative and relevant. We believe that our teaching should promote our pupils’ spiritual, moral, social, physical and cultural development and also prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

Junior School PSHEE Coordinator: **Sandra Bullen**

Senior School Head of PSHEE/Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Charlotte Barber**

Designated SLT Member: **Sarah Maddock**

Lead Governor: **Dr Emma Miller and Dr Jacqui Watson**

EYFS Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Sandra Bullen**

Aims and Objectives of Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy

Our Drugs and Alcohol Education at Longridge Towers School will:

- ◆ provide the information and support for pupils to be able to make informed lifestyle choices;
- ◆ encourage a supportive ethos in which issues can be discussed and questions answered;
- ◆ ensure the safety of staff and pupils when on the school site;
- ◆ provide appropriate role models and examples to illustrate a healthy lifestyle;
- ◆ educate pupils on the law regarding the use of illegal drugs and inform them of the impact that illegal drugs may have on them, their families and wider society;
- ◆ recognise the valuable role that medication can have;
- ◆ acknowledge that not all family members may make healthy choices and some of the reasons why;
- ◆ enable pupils to develop a self-awareness and realise the power they have to determine their own lives;
- ◆ provide a whole school approach to issues of healthy life style;
- ◆ draw attention to the effect which peers can have upon the decisions that we make and the need to take a considered approach to this;
- ◆ alert pupils to ways of seeking additional help and support where necessary;
- ◆ ensure that pupils have access to balanced information and views against which they can clarify their own opinions and establish the difference between fact, opinion and belief;

Moral and Values Framework

As a school we believe that the aim of Drugs and Alcohol Education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

It is very important that as a school we partner with parent/carers and relevant agencies so that not only is drug education taught, but pastoral support given so that vulnerable children may be identified and, if appropriate, referred through to another service. School plays a central role in providing education about the risk and effects of drugs by; developing confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs is a concern receive appropriate support.

Framework for Drugs and Alcohol Education Programme

Drugs and Alcohol Education will be taught in the PSHE curriculum throughout the school using the *Jigsaw* materials. This is a new scheme introduced in September 2022.

Working with Parents/Guardians/Carers

Parents/guardians are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up, and also in preparing them for the challenges and

responsibilities which adulthood brings. We consider that our teaching of Drugs and Alcohol Education is complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In this regard, parents are invited to offer their views about its content and presentation, and are encouraged to review our teaching materials.

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

A member of the School Governors will review the policy every two years, looking especially at recent official documentation, research and comments from parents and guardians. The teaching programme will be reviewed regularly by the Head of the Junior Department and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.