

Sperrinview Special School

Substance Misuse Policy

Introduction

Substance Misuse Education cannot be a separate or discrete set of knowledge, facts and skills, but must include the development of positive and appropriate attitudes, values and skills. We aim to achieve this through our specifically designed pastoral programmes.

We recognise that substance misuse is not only a school issue but also a community issue and is best addressed when appropriate responsibilities are shared with relevant people - parents, community representatives, neighbouring schools etc.

Definition

A drug is any substance which when taken, may alter the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

Substances include:

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Drugs:
 - Caffeine products eg tea, coffee, red bull, chocolate
 - Over the counter medicines/drugs eg paracetamol, cough medicine etc
 - Prescribed medicines/drugs eg antibiotics
 - Volatile substances eg glue, correction fluid, aerosols etc
 - Illegal drugs eg cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy etc.

Rationale

We believe that there is a requirement to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Through the curriculum offered to the pupils, we will provide the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and opportunities for pupils to

handle issues that they may face.

We believe that PDMU/PD is the most appropriate area of the curriculum in which to offer such learning and development.

Aims

We aim to:

- Ensure pupil safety and well-being
- Foster appropriate attitudes towards drugs and laws relating to drugs
- Promote responsible behaviour and the ability to make informed decisions
- Encourage the use of appropriate leisure and social activities

These aims will be promoted within a framework of morals and values to include:

- Self-respect and respect for others
- Taking responsibility for one's own actions - self-discipline

Roles

The co-ordinator for this subject is Miss Paula Jordan.

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy.

Organisation

Education on the Misuse of Substances forms part of the overall PDMU/PD programme in the school. It will be dealt with on an ongoing basis throughout the year, and in Key Stages 3 & 4, in specific as part of the Social and Personal Development Course [see RSE Policy].

External Support

Parents

EA Southern Region Advisor for PSHE

School Medical Officer

School Nurse
School Dentist
DHSS
PSNI
Behaviour Support Team EA Southern Region

Staff Development and Training

The co-ordinators will ensure that staff are updated on all developments, legislation and documentation pertaining to Misuse of Substances Education through;

- school based inset,
- EA Southern Region based inset,
- attendance at award bearing courses etc;

Resources

Teaching Resources for Adolescents - CAWT Project

Walk Tall - Substance Misuse Programme

My Body is mine. My feelings are mine. Susan Hoke

Portage - Classroom Curriculum.

Chalkface Project

Collins Personal, Social and Health Education Programme 1 & 2

Examining Self Esteem in the Young - Lou Thompson & Tim Lowson

Your Choice Series - Shay and Margaret McConnon

Health Promoting School - NICC

School Improvement - Focus on Boys - CCEA

Pastoral Care in Schools - DENI

Integrating Personal Safety Programmes into the Curriculum -
CCEA

Personal and Social Education - CCEA

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Misuse of Substances Education Policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis through consultation with pupils, staff, parents and external support agencies.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of Governors will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a timetabled, on-going process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____