



WALKER MEMORIAL
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Drug Education Policy

W: working together

A: to Achieve

L: happy Life, long learners
nurturing

K: Kindness

E: Excellence

+

R: Respect

It is a statutory requirement for every school to have a Drugs Education Policy and to teach drugs education as part of the Health Education cross-curricular theme. We accept our legal responsibility and put the welfare and protection of our pupils first.

Definition

By the term 'drug' we mean any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. The term 'drug' includes

- alcohol
- cigarettes
- solvents (glues, correcting fluids, lighter fuel, aerosols, petrol)
- nitrates (poppers)
- magic mushrooms
- illicit drugs

At Walker Memorial Primary we will not tolerate the mis-use of drugs in our school. Illicit Drugs are those listed as Controlled Drugs. These include:

- all illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed) and magic mushrooms (processed))
- any prescribed drug that is used wrongly (e.g. valium, mogodon)

Children are not allowed to have gas lighter fuel, aerosol cans (swimming), cigarettes, lighters or correcting fluid in their possession.

Protective Factors

There are many factors that influence a young person's decision to experiment with and/or continue to take drugs. Research shows that the following school-related protective factors are associated with less harmful drug use.

- Good staff/pupil relationships
- Low levels of truancy
- Effective drugs education - promoting positive, healthy attitudes
- Academic success - especially in late primary school
- Commitment and a sense of belonging to the school
- Positive social behaviour
- High self-esteem
- Clear and consistent messages about drugs-related issues from home, school and the community
- Acquisition of life-skills such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making and interpersonal skills
- Friends who do not misuse drugs

Aims of this policy

- To provide a clear statement of the school's view on drug education.
- To ensure a consistent approach from staff to drug education and in the handling of drug-related incidents.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug use and abuse.
- To help pupils acquire skills in managing the pressures of the youth culture they live in.
- To build up the self-esteem of pupils.
- To help pupils acquire decision-making skills.
- To create a climate where a young person feels comfortable discussing issues relating to drugs.
- To foster skills, that empower children to take responsibility for their own health.
- Make children aware of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, solvent and controlled drugs
- Promote abstinence
- Delay the onset of experimentation
- Dissuade children from the use of drugs

If anyone, parent, child or member of staff, has a concern about the misuse of drugs they should report to the Principal immediately. The situation will be investigated, arrangements will be put in place to support the person reported and when a child is involved, the parents will be informed. Please note that the school must inform the police where they believe or suspect a pupil is in possession of a controlled drug. In cases where it is clear that a pupil is selling illegal drugs and the health and safety of other pupils is at risk, the Principal may decide in consultation with the EA-Southern Region and the Board of Governors that a pupil should be suspended or excluded from the school.

In all cases of suspected misuse of drugs, the Principal will contact the local Juvenile Liaison Officer and the Education Welfare Officer. Only people who have a right to know will be given information but the Principal cannot offer a child any guarantee of confidentiality.

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