



## Drug Education and Drug Related Incidents Policy

The aim of this policy is to provide guidelines for drug education within the Nursery School, and also to provide guidance for staff in dealing with cases of drug and substance misuse.

### DEFINITION

A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. Drugs include:

- Alcohol or tobacco
- Over the counter medicines such as paracetamol
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, cocaine etc

Illegal and other unauthorised substances are not acceptable anywhere within Chichester Nursery School, the Children Centre or any of its buildings or grounds.

### PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

From time to time children may require medicines that have been prescribed for use during the day. In these cases the School's policy on the administration of medicines will be followed. Prescribed medicines should only be administered to children by the parents/carers or a nominated member of staff. The pharmacy printed instructions for use should always be followed, and appropriate documentation completed by parents/carers and the member of staff administering the medicine. All medicines should be clearly labelled with the child's name and stored appropriately. Further information can be found in Chichester Nursery School's Administration of Medicines Policy.

Non-prescribed medicines cannot be administered by staff, with the exception of antihistamine medication and Calpol. (Further information can be found in our Administration of Medicines Policy)

### DRUG EDUCATION

At Chichester Nursery School we aim to provide opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable them to consider the effects of drugs and other substances on themselves and others.

Within our curriculum and through opportunities as they occur, we aim to develop children's knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes about drugs, and support children in appreciating the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions. Our main objectives are:

- To help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives
- To help children respect their own bodies and in doing so reduce the likelihood of them becoming involved in drug abuse in later life
- To increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects by providing accurate and developmentally appropriate guidance and information

We regard health education as a whole setting issue. Opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur through the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum that we follow, taking the opportunities that arise whilst engaging with children. The development of knowledge and skills to enable them to make informed choices is an important aspect of children's social learning. Children will have the opportunity to explore and discuss how medicines and visiting the doctor or hospital help us to stay healthy. Simple rules associated with medicines maybe discussed highlighting the importance of appropriate adults giving medicines to children. The dangers of harmful domestic substances, such as bleach, may also be pointed out.

## **DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

We aim to deal with incidents of substance misuse in a consistent and fair manner, with the purpose of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all involved, but particularly that of children. Our main objectives are:

- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers
- To clarify, through this policy, the School's approach to any incidents of drug misuse that may occur

## **MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

A suspected drug related incident may be identified as:

- Suspect drugs found on the premises
- A child/parent/carer suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A child/parent/carer found to be in possession of drugs
- A child/parent/carer is suspected of being under the influence of drugs

The first priority is ensuring the safety of all involved, dealing with medical emergencies and securing appropriate help. A range of responses may be determined and employed after a full and careful investigation into the exact nature of the incident.

Staff discovering substances which are suspected of being harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation should observe the following guidance:

- Consider the need for first aid or alerting the emergency services
- If possible, and if it poses no risk to personal safety, remove the suspicious substance in the presence of a witness, taking it to the Headteacher or most senior member of staff present
- Record the time, place and circumstances of the discovery with a description of the substance **(but not investigate the substance further)**
- Where drug related paraphernalia, such as needles and syringes, are discovered, the Headteacher or the most senior member of staff should ensure that these are collected and placed in a secure, labelled container in the Headteacher's filing cabinet, to await proper collection in accordance with health and safety guidelines
- The Headteacher or most senior member of staff will seek the advice of the Police on how to proceed and on the safe disposal of any illegal substances
- If any child protection issues arise, normal referral systems should be followed

Any member of staff suspecting that a child, parent/carer is in possession of illegal substances should notify the Headteacher or the most senior member of staff straight away in order that they may inform the police.

If a member of staff suspects that a parent or carer collecting a child is under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or illegal substances:

- The child must not be released to the parent or carer (it may be necessary to create the pretext for some delay) and will automatically stay for the next Nursery session.
- If the incident occurs at the end of the Nursery day (i.e. at 6pm) two members of staff will remain with the child until alternative arrangements are made and a further member of staff (usually the Headteacher or most senior member of staff) will stay near a phone, to enable them to make arrangements for the child's welfare
- The Headteacher or most senior member of staff must be notified immediately ensuring that a member of staff remains with the child and parent/carer
- The Headteacher or most senior member of staff should raise concerns for the child's welfare with the parent/carer in an honest and open way, unless doing so would antagonise them further, and should include letting them know that the Police and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub/their child's Social Worker will be called. This should be done in the presence of an additional member of staff and out of the hearing of other parents or carers
- The Headteacher or most senior member of staff will contact the Police and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (or their out of hours service), or where relevant, the child's Social Worker, so that provision can be made for the child's immediate welfare
- If they have not been involved in the incident at an earlier stage, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (or their out of hours service) should always be notified of a case of drug or substance misuse as soon as possible after it has occurred

**Date:** Summer 2020    **To be reviewed:** Summer 2023