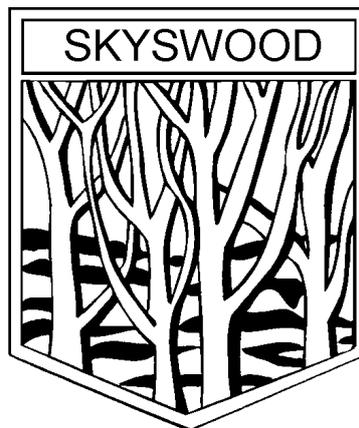


# **Skyswood Primary & Nursery School**

## **Drugs Education Policy**



**September 2019**

**Review Date – September 2021**

## **Introduction**

Skyswood Primary & Nursery School's Drugs Education Policy has been formulated with due consideration given to Hertfordshire County Council and national recommendations regarding practices and policies for drugs education within primary schools. This includes 'Drug Advice for Schools' (DfE and ACPO – September 2012).

The policy should be seen in the wider context of our Personal, Social and Health Education Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Behaviour and Health and Safety Policies

Skyswood Primary & Nursery School defines the term "drug" as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally, and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter medicines and prescribed medicines as well as illicit drugs.

## **Rationale**

We believe that drug education should give the children knowledge, teach skills and encourage attitudes which will enable them to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. They should be aware of the impact of their own actions, both now and in the future. By arming them with up-to-date information and skills to assess and resist risks to their health, we hope to reduce harmful influences from the wider environment.

## **Values and Aims**

Our drug education reflects the wider aims of the school to provide a caring community in which children learn self respect and to respect others while taking responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to promoting the health and safety of all members of the school community.

We aim to communicate and co-operate with parents and carers in this important aspect of children's education.

We believe that all non-medical drugs on the school premises are unacceptable. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted for adults at certain functions.

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are in the care of school staff, including school trips and educational visits.

We aim to:

- alert children to the dangers of abuse and addiction
- ensure children know how and when to find support for themselves and others

- enable children to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills
- help children develop a sense of self-awareness and self esteem
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- listen to children's thoughts, feelings and concerns, ensuring drug education responds to their needs
- counter any inaccurate messages which children may receive about drugs
- develop as a health promoting school

We intend to achieve these aims through:

- a consistent and co-ordinated approach to the curriculum of drug education and to any drug related incident
- an appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' need
- lessons planned with clearly defined learning objectives
- reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages, and in different situations
- lesson content and teaching strategies which take into account the needs and maturity of all children, including those with special educational needs and English as an additional language
- integration of drug education into the curriculum for Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship, and Science
- involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents, pupils and relevant visitors
- regular review and evaluation of policy and practice
- recognising that adults are role models for children

### **Teaching**

A wide range of teaching approaches may be used. Children will be encouraged to participate fully in discussions. Ground rules will be negotiated where appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognised, safeguarding the interests of the individual and the whole class.

The drug education programme will be delivered through:

- planned aspects of PSHE, Science and RE
- pastoral or circle time
- assemblies
- visits from e.g. police officer, school nurse
- the use of a variety of resources e.g. videos, posters, leaflets etc...

## Liaison with other schools, parents and the wider community

Our work may be linked through local consortia with work carried out in other schools, including secondary schools to which our children transfer.

## Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention drug use or misuse in group discussions or to an individual. While staff would want to be supportive, it must be acknowledged that we work within the legislation and guidelines laid down for Child Protection and we may not therefore be able to guarantee confidentiality. Pupils will be informed if information is being passed on.

## Roles and Responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. Staff should be acquainted with this policy and its implications for themselves and others within the community.

- **All staff** should consider themselves as role models; children are likely to notice the behaviour of adults and follow their examples, at that time or in the future. Staff must be clear about how they should respond in any possible drug-related incident.
- **Teachers and Teaching Assistants** have a responsibility to contribute to the delivery of the taught curriculum for drugs education.
- **The Headteacher** has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are followed, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug-related incidents.
- **The PSHE Co-ordinator** will oversee the delivery of the Drugs Education curriculum and review the practices and school policy in liaison with the Senior Leadership Team and our governing body.

**September 2019**