**MAGHERA**

**PRIMARY**

**SCHOOL**



**DRUGS POLICY**

**MAY 2017**

**DRUGS POLICY**

**1. Introduction and Ethos.**

The Maghera Primary School family unites Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors through its aim to provide a secure and stimulating learning environment where children and their educational needs – mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and pastoral, are central. In addition, pupils are afforded a wide variety of opportunities to collaborate with children and adults from their own and other communities.

The teaching within our school provides pupils with a broad and balanced educational experience which is in line with the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum. We aim to equip and shape them for their next step in education as well as for life.

We recognise the unique qualities of our pupils and nurture them in their ability to develop self-confidence, tolerance, independence and self-discipline. Moreover, we endeavour to equip them to take responsibility for their own learning as appropriate. We believe learning should be fun.

Maghera Primary School takes pride in the positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents and the support from groups which comprise the wider school community.

We are encouraged by the high regard in which the school is held by members of the local community and beyond and strive to promote this positive ethos for the benefit of all those who come through our doors.

At Maghera Primary School we aim to

* Provide a happy, safe and stimulating working environment in which each child feels secure and valued.
* Encourage positive relationships between staff and pupils and amongst the pupils themselves.
* Nurture and celebrate children’s success and achievements to build self-confidence and self-esteem.
* Set clear standards for discipline and to enforce these consistently for the good of all and in a way which is understood by the pupils.
* Maintain, nurture and value partnership with parents and the wider community.

**2. Rationale**

The Principal, Board of Governors and staff of Maghera Primary School take a serious and professional approach to our responsibilities in relation to drugs education.

**3.Definitions**

For the purpose of this document and in line with Guidance issued to all schools by the Department of Education.

While this definition encompasses substances such as tea and coffee, for the purposes of this policy it will include:

* “over the counter” medicines e.g., paracetemol
* Prescription drugs as issued on prescription by a doctor e.g. antibiotics, tranquillisers
* Illicit drugs include socially unacceptable legal drugs e.g. solvents, correcting fluids/thinners, aerosols, poppers, gas lighter fuel, petrol, underage consumption of alcohol and tobacco and those prescribed by a doctor but used incorrectly eg., diazepam.
* Illegal drugs are those substances listed as controlled drug (e.g. ecstasy, cannabis, LSD, heroin, magic mushrooms)
* ‘Legal Highs’…. substances not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act and are therefore legal to possess. The term is misleading as most are regulated by the Medicines Act which make them illegal to sell, supply or advertise them for human consumption.) e.g. mephedrone (which has now been classified as a Class B drug), BZP (now classified as a Class C drug) and salvia (which is under review)

**4.Aims**

This policy is designed to:-

* Outline the school’s attitude to the misuse/abuse of drugs
* Ensure a consistent approach by all members of staff to drugs education
* Develop an effective partnership with parents/guardians
* To safeguard good practice in the future.

**5.Roles and Responsibilities**

**Board of Governors**:

* Support the development and on-going review of the drugs policy and programme.
* Ensure they are fully aware and adequately trained to deal with any drug related incident including alcohol and tobacco.
* Aim to have one member of the Board specifically trained in drugs-related issues.

The **Principal:**

* Determine any drug-related incident if necessary inform PSNI.
* Contact the parents and/or guardians of any pupils involved in any drugs-related incident.
* Inform the Board of Governors about the incident
* Agree with them any appropriate pastoral or disciplinary measures to be taken
* Store or dispose of any drug or drug related paraphernalia
* Report the incident to Child Protection team at NEELB.

The **Designated Teacher** **for Drugs**

The Designated Teacher is also the principal, Mrs Winters. As Designated Teacher her responsibilities will be:

* To co-ordinate the school’s procedures for handling suspected drugs-related incidents
* Training and induction of the above named procedures with new and existing staff.
* To take possession of any substance or drugs paraphernalia found in the event of any drugs-related incident.
* To complete a report following any drug-related incident.
* To oversee and co-ordinate the drugs education programme
* To act as contact point for outside agencies coming into the school
* To review and amend the programme/policy if necessary, following an incident.

(d) **Individual Staff Members** (teaching and non-teachers)

* Be aware of procedures to follow in the case of a drugs-related incident.
* Deal with any emergency procedures surrounding the incident they have just encountered.
* Forward any information, substance or paraphernalia to the designated teacher/principal.
* Complete a factual report.

**6.Staff Training**

At Maghera Primary School we appreciate the need for staff training in the area of drugs education. Staff (both teaching and non-teaching) will engage in school-based training in drugs awareness approximately every three years. Training can be provided by the designated teacher, PSNI or other outside agency, where appropriate.

**7.Overview of Drugs Education Programme**

The over-riding aim of our Drugs Education programme is to prevent the misuse/abuse of drugs and to provide an environment where our pupils benefit from a drug-free lifestyle.

The Drugs Education programme is a statutory requirement within the Northern Ireland Curriculum and is part of PDMU curriculum. For Key Stage 1 pupils, as part of Personal Development, we cover Keeping Safe which includes looking at what we put into our bodies such as medicines etc. The resource, Living Learning Together provided by CCEA, is used to deliver this.

In KS2, also using the Living Learning Together resource and other appropriate resources, we cover tobacco, alcohol and solvents.

The Drugs Programme is also linked to other curricular areas such as The World Around Us, Literacy, P.E. and R.E, where and when appropriate.

* A variety of teaching strategies appropriate to the subject matter, the maturity of the pupils and their individual circumstances will be employed.
* A range of class management techniques, incorporating whole class, group or individual teaching will be used.
* The responsibility for delivering the drugs education programme will lie with each class teacher.

We aim through education:

* To help young people distinguish between useful and harmful drugs
* To inform children of the effects of drug abuse and provide accurate and up-to-date information on drugs and their effects on health
* To help pupils acquire skills in peer pressure.
* To establish skills and behaviour which enable children to communicate effectively, assert themselves and make responsible decisions
* To help pupils understand that are inappropriate certain behaviours
* To create a climate where a young person can discuss drug use comfortably
* To build up children’s self-esteem and confidence
* To ensure progression and continuity in knowledge and understanding, matching these to the age, maturity and circumstances of the pupils concerned

**8.Staff Use of Smoking and Alcohol**

It is now a legal requirement that our premises are completely smoke free. No-Smoking signs have been displayed, clearly visible to all members of staff or visitors to the school. Anyone smoking will be advised that they are committing an offence and will be politely asked to stop smoking and advised that it is also an offence for the school to allow anyone to smoke.

For issues relating to staff use of alcohol, we refer them to the Alcohol and Drug Misuse Policy (TNC 2005/5) available from the D.E. website.

**9.Communicating the Policy to Parents and Other Related Agencies**

Parents can have access to the policy by requesting a copy from the office

The policy will be reviewed and ratified every two years All outside agencies will be made aware of the policy to ensure that what they offer is part of the on-going drugs programme and is always appropriate.