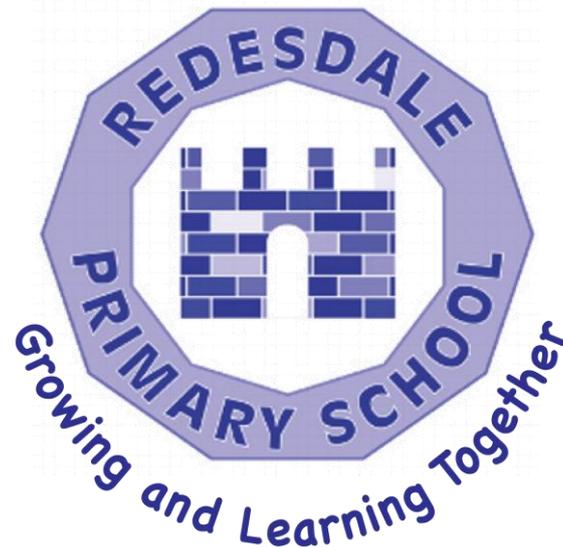


# Redesdale Primary School



## **Policy for Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco.**

# Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy

## Forward

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education is an entitlement of all children and young people and should be delivered within the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Science and as part of PSHE education. Good quality drug education can have a very positive impact on helping young people to make healthy life choices and is an important part of our work as part of North Tyneside's Healthy School agenda. Good quality Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education also contributes to the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of children and young people.

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education (DAT Education) is most successful when delivered through direct teaching, cross-curricular links and supported by a whole school approach. Our scheme for PSHE education, supported by the National Strategy S.E.A.L. (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) materials and Health for Life scheme, helps to develop the children's self esteem, their ability to make choices, to recognise consequences and to voice their feelings. Such skills provide the building blocks of quality DAT Education. The Science curriculum includes teaching about medicines and how we keep our bodies healthy, which provide a foundation for DAT Education.

## Aims and objectives

At Redesdale Primary School we aim to provide a consistent and holistic programme of drug, alcohol and tobacco education, collaboratively supported through partnership working. We want our children to learn skills, which help them to lead healthy, happy lives. We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices and decisions that lead to a safe and healthy lifestyle and we recognise the importance of quality Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education as part of this process.

The objectives of our DAT Education programme are:

- to educate children and young people in the knowledge that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines;
- for children and young people to know that all substances, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly;
- for children and young people to understand the physical, psychological, social and legal implications of drug misuse;
- to provide children and young people with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to live a healthy lifestyle;
- to provide children and young people with accurate and appropriate information about the harmful effects of socially acceptable drugs such as alcohol and tobacco;
- to help children and young people become more self-confident and to value themselves and their bodies;
- to provide a safe environment for children and young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to enable children and young people to explore their attitudes in a safe environment and to discuss their values in the context of the society in which they live.

## Organisation and approach

At Redesdale Primary School Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco education is approached through direct teaching, cross-curricular links and class discussion. It is regarded as a whole school issue because opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum and during unplanned discussions with the young people. Sometimes class teachers will seek support from outside agencies in order to enhance the DAT curriculum.

To make DAT education effective it is important to establish existing knowledge, beliefs, experiences and what young people want to learn. Existing knowledge and understanding is identified through:

- draw and write activities
- circle time work
- questionnaires/surveys
- group discussions

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education is integrated into our science and personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum. Lessons that focus on drug, alcohol and tobacco education form part of a programme designed to promote healthy lifestyles, provide information and an opportunity to develop skills and explore beliefs, attitudes and values to enable young people to make informed choices. PSHCE lessons provide young people with the opportunity to debate, to consider the possible ways to deal with a situation assertively and encourage them to recognise the consequences of their actions.

PSHCE can take many forms; drama for example is a useful way to distance children and young people from sensitive issues. The teaching styles that we use encourage children and young people to ask questions and to reflect. We give children and young people the opportunity to work in pairs, small groups or as a whole class and we encourage the children to listen to the views of others. Class teachers will answer questions about drugs, alcohol and tobacco sensitively and appropriately based on their knowledge of the young person. Any concerns are referred to the Headteacher in accordance with Child Protection / Safeguarding Procedures.

## **Drug Education Scheme Overview**

We use the Health for Life programme, SEAL materials and Science curriculum to help teach the Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education curriculum. By building confidence and self worth, young people will be more able to stand up for the choices they make and to resist pressure from others. All classes also have assemblies linked to themes of keeping safe, healthy eating and exercise, caring for others and taking responsibility for their own actions. Here are the areas each class learn about:-

Foundation Stage – medicine safety, who can help us, what is safe/unsafe to touch.

Year 1 – safety, who can help us, functions of the human body, what is safe and unsafe to put into our bodies and learn about how to use medicines safely.

Year 2 – What makes us healthy, what are consequences, what is safe and unsafe in our household/school and decision making skills. To learn that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines and an introduction to alcohol.

Year 3 – understanding of the word drug, awareness of safety rules for medicines, peer pressure, alcohol awareness.

Year 4 – understanding of the word drug, alcohol and tobacco use and decision making. To understand the term “peer pressure” and know who to go to for help.

Year 5 – knowledge of dangers associated with drug use and effects on the body, knowledge of dangers of syringes, decision making.

Year 6 – illegal drugs – discussing and naming, effects of legal and illegal drugs, peer pressure, other reasons people take drugs.

### **The role of the Headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that all staff and parents are informed about the Policy for Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education, and that the policy is implemented effectively. The Headteacher also ensures that staff are given sufficient training so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

### **The role of governors**

The governing body has the responsibility of agreeing the Policy on Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors inform and consult with parents about the Policy for Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education. Governors seek guidance and support from the Local Authority and health organisations to ensure that the school’s policy is in line with the best advice available.

### **The role of parents**

The school is aware of the important role of parents in children’s Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education. We must build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school DAT Education policy and practice;
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach DAT Education in our school;
- answer any questions parents may have about the DAT Education their child receives in school;

- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for DAT Education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary.

### **Consultation with Pupils**

Through the School Council, the views of the children and young people are sought related to DAT Education in the school. Children and young people give their opinion on the content of the programme and how useful it is. The type of lessons and teaching materials used can also be discussed.

### **External visitors**

We encourage external visitors to work with us to provide advice and support to children, young people and staff, with regards to DAT Education. Public Health School Nurses provide valuable support to our drugs, alcohol and tobacco education programme in school.

Teaching staff and support staff always maintain responsibility for the overall DAT education. They effectively plan and evaluate the involvement of external visitors who make a valuable contribution to the DAT programme. This can include in-class support, training and consultation.

### **Inclusion**

All pupils are entitled to receive quality DAT Education and lessons are differentiated to ensure they meet the needs of all pupils. Activities are adapted to provide support for pupils with difficulties in cognition and learning or communication and interaction. This includes greater emphasis on discussion, role modelling, role-play and mechanisms for recording pupils' thoughts that do not solely rely on written materials.

### **Assessment**

The elements of DAT Education that form part of the Science curriculum at Key Stages 1 to 4 are assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. Other elements of DAT Education are assessed as part of overall PSHE provision. Regular assessment is devised to identify;

- what knowledge and understanding pupils have gained
- what skills they have developed and put into practice
- how their feelings, beliefs and attitudes have been influenced during the programme

Assessment will include teacher assessment, pupil self-assessment and peer group assessment.

### **Monitoring and review**

The curriculum committee of the governing body monitor the DAT Education policy. This committee report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the DAT Education programme and comments are recorded.

When reviewing the DAT Education policy the curriculum committee consults with the pupils through the School Council.

## **Managing Drug Related Incidents.**

Our guiding principles, which direct our actions at all times are:

The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff;  
The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk;  
The law concerning drugs.

### **Procedures**

In the event of any concerns related to pupils or parents and drugs or alcohol the school will follow set procedures. If any pupil is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, the substance will be confiscated, in the presence of a witness and locked in the Office storage cabinet. It is permitted by law for school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and the offence of possession.

If any pupil is thought to be 'under the influence' medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required.

The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher will be informed and lead the schools response following the recommended safeguarding policy guidelines.

A record of the incident will be kept. These are kept by the Headteacher.

Parents/carers will normally be informed (following appropriate Safeguarding/Child Protection guidelines, i.e. Will the pupil be at risk either physically or mentally if the parents/carers are told?)

The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will consider notifying the Police who may provide additional advice and expertise for those individuals and families involved and/or confiscate the substance. The Front door service may also be used for advice.

The school will advise the parents/carers of additional support the family may want.

No member of staff should attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance.

If a pupil is suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person every effort will be made to secure the voluntary production of such drugs. This will be carried out in the presence of a witness. School property such as desks and bags may be searched.

Suspension/Exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in line with the DfE guidance on exclusions.

### **Links with other policies:**

Safeguarding/Child protection policy  
Confidentiality  
Medicines in school

### **Further guidance**

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies -

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/270169/drug\\_advice\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf)

Frank service - <http://www.talktofrank.com/drugs-a-z>