

# Nazareth House Primary School

## School policy on drugs education and dealing with drug-related incidents



### Definition:

For the purpose of this document and in line with the guidance pack issued to all schools by DENI, 2004/09, a “drug” can be defined as:

*“any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.”*

The term “drug” includes, amongst others:

- alcohol
- tobacco
- solvents (glues, correcting fluids, lighter fuel, aerosols, petrol)
- illicit drugs (including cannabis, LSD, magic mushrooms, etc)
- prescription drugs deliberately used wrongly

## **Rationale:**

Current research indicates that drug use, both legal and illegal, is rising amongst young people. As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate children about drug use. Drugs are a reality in children's lives and schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practicing skills.

The drugs education programme in this school aims to enable all our pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on guidelines provided by DENI Guidance 2004/09, and will be sensitive to the age and experiences of our pupils. Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils.

This school is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and we will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

## **Aims**

1. To provide a programme which gives young people opportunities to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about the use of drugs and other substances within the context of a healthy lifestyle.
2. To provide staff with adequate training and support to help them deliver effective drugs education and respond to situations with consistency and sensitivity.
3. To inform parents of the content of the school's Drugs Education Policy and to clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug-related incidents, agreed by staff and governors, of which all parents and pupils will be made aware.
4. To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
5. To establish an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of all drugs.

**Overview:**

At Nazareth House Primary School, we will not tolerate the misuse of drugs in our school. Our Drugs Education Programme should allow our children to develop skills to enable them to resist offers and to live a drug-free lifestyle in what is fast becoming a more drug-orientated society.

Drugs Education will be delivered in a cross curricular way, as the skills taught and the approaches taken both essentially promote a healthy lifestyle.

**Role of all staff, both teaching and non-teaching:**

- Provide an appropriate range of learning activities to enhance children's understanding of the dangers and consequences of all drugs
- Immediately report any suspected drugs-related incident or conversation
- Forward any information, substance or paraphernalia received to the Principal or Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Provide a brief, factual report of the suspected incident to be forwarded to the Principal/Designated Teacher

**Role of Class Teachers: (in addition to the above)**

- Deliver the school's drugs education programme.
- Try to create an atmosphere in the classroom in which pupils can freely contribute to discussion, safe in the knowledge that the comments, ideas and feelings of the group are valued.
- Support pupils in their class if necessary.
- Liase with the designated teacher regarding any aspect of the Drugs Policy, as necessary.

**Role of the Caretaker:**

- Exercise vigilance and be aware of drug-taking materials anywhere in the school building or grounds.
- Conduct regular checks of school grounds for drug-taking materials.
- Solvents to be kept in locked cupboard in secure area

### **Role of the Principal:**

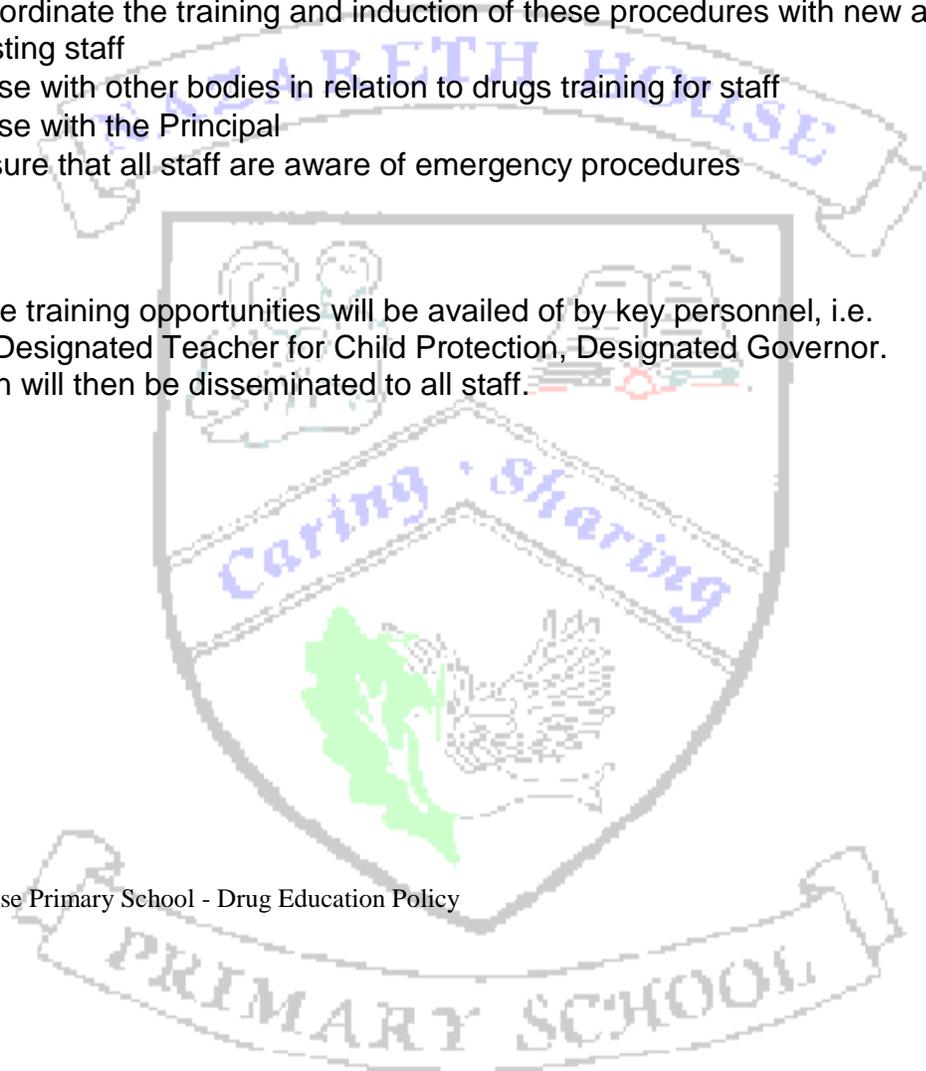
- To ensure that a balanced programme of study is being taught
- To liaise with other bodies in relation to drugs education (PSNI, voluntary agencies)
- To liaise with all staff on drugs education and pastoral matters
- To liaise with other bodies in relation to drugs incidents
- To co-ordinate the school's procedures for handling suspected drug-related incidents
- To supervise any drug-related incident and take possession of any substance and associated paraphernalia
- To complete a factual report that is forwarded to the Chairman of the Board of Governors
- To contact parents/guardians of pupils involved
- To ensure that when a controlled drug is involved, there is close liaison with PSNI
- To prioritise the welfare of the pupils involved, other pupils in the school and the handling, storage and safe disposal of any drugs/drug-related paraphernalia
- Will report the incident to the CCMS, EA and the Board of Governors

### **Role of the Designated Teacher for Child Protection:**

- Co-ordinate the training and induction of these procedures with new and existing staff
- Liaise with other bodies in relation to drugs training for staff
- Liaise with the Principal
- Ensure that all staff are aware of emergency procedures

### **Training:**

Appropriate training opportunities will be availed of by key personnel, i.e. Principal, Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Designated Governor. Information will then be disseminated to all staff.



### **Management of Prescribed Medications:**

Some children have ongoing or temporary medical conditions that may require prescribed medication. In line with advice;

- Teachers and members of the non-teaching staff can, at all times, opt out of administering such medication
- In certain cases, an individual plan will be put in place following consultation with and training of relevant staff
- Staff members can voluntarily administer medication if they are comfortable with this, after having liaised closely with the child's parents/guardians, e.g. asthma protocol, antibiotic
- "Over the Counter Medication"- the school would encourage parents to administer this type of medication, where possible, before and after school. Teachers are strongly advised NOT to administer this type of medication and parents are encouraged to come into school during the school day to administer this independently.

### **Storage of Medication:**

- Antibiotics, inhalers, Epi-pens, etc to be kept in a secure cupboard in the classroom.
- Second Epi-pens to be kept in a secure cupboard in the school office.

### **Emergency Provision:**

If a child requires medical treatment, e.g. has an asthma attack, the school will always put the needs of the child first. If their child suffers from asthma, parents/guardians will have completed an "Asthma Protocol" at the beginning of the school year outlining procedures to follow should their child have an asthma attack. Staff will follow these procedures closely. However, if a medical emergency occurs, an ambulance will be called.

### **School Trips:**

Where a child requires medication during a school trip, the parent/guardian must present all necessary information to the school in writing stating;

- The nature of the condition
- The name of the medicine
- Dosage required
- Time of dosage

Aerosol type deodorants are not permitted in school nor on any school trip.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The welfare of Nazareth House Primary School pupils and staff is of paramount concern and we shall work together as a school community to ensure the continued education and well being of all our children.

There will be regular monitoring, review and evaluation of the Drugs Education Programme within the school.

This policy will be reviewed and updated every 3 years.



Action to be taken in the event of a **suspected incident of drug misuse** where the designated teacher for drug issues is not the principal.

*Nazareth House Primary School*

