



Cressing Primary School Drug and Alcohol Policy

October 2019

Date for Review	September 2020
-----------------	----------------

This policy seeks to ensure:

- that pupils in our school receive an education that enables them to grow up confidently, knowledgeably, and safely in a drug using world;
- that pupils get consistent messages about living a healthy lifestyle;
- that drug related incidents are addressed throughout our school in a consistent manner;
- that pupils experiencing difficulties with substances are identified and supported.

Definition

A drug is “a substance people take to change the way they think or behave”.

Throughout this policy the term drug refers to all drugs:

- Illegal drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and substances;
- Prescribed medicines;
- Over the counter medicine.

Under the terms of the National Curriculum we are required to meet two aims:

- 1 Education
- 2 Well-Being.

Education

Under the terms of the Education Act 1996, section 351(1) (b) we are required to:

- “prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.”
- and meet the aim of the Essex Vision Statement:
“In Essex, every learner is entitled to a curriculum rich and varied, challenging and inspiring, which enables every individual to fulfil her or his potential to the highest possible standard; so that all, for the benefit of all, are able to shape their destinies and create a better world”

At Cressing Primary School we want our pupils to be:

- successful learners;
- confident individuals;
- responsible citizens.

Young people are growing up in an increasingly drug using world and we recognise that many aspects of the curriculum contribute towards enabling young people not only to know how to stay safe from substance misuse, but also have high self-esteem and interpersonal skills that enable them to stay safe and in control.

Cressing Primary School is committed to working towards the principles of a health promoting school. The raising of every child's self-esteem is a fundamental aim of our school.

Cressing Primary School drug education aims to:

- increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of drugs;
- develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions;
- enable pupils to explore their own and others attitudes to drugs.

External agencies with specialist knowledge may be invited into our school.

Well-Being

At Cressing Primary School we are aware that drugs can affect any of our pupils, whatever their age. This can be from:

- accidental exposure to a substance;
- inappropriate experimental use of a drug;
- developing a drug habit;
- a sudden health problem;
- living in a drug using family;
- entering into the criminal justice system;
- immediate, short or long term emotional/mental health problems.

A young person's own drug problem use can be:

- the main cause for concern;
- a symptom of a deeper, more complex difficulty;
- one of a number of interrelated issues or concerns.

It is rare for a drug problem to be isolated from other pastoral difficulties.

In all cases our guiding principle will be that the welfare of the young person and their peers is paramount.

When dealing with a drug related incident the priority is to:

- get medical support;
- ensure immediate safety/welfare support;
- arrange counselling and support;
- ensure appropriate discipline.

Staff should tell a senior member of staff of any incidents.

Confidentiality

No staff member can or should offer total confidentiality. Staff must honour their responsibilities in relation to child protection, co-operating with a police investigation and referral to external services. All staff are subject to child protection procedures (SET Book) at all times.

Curriculum

The aim of our taught curriculum is to support the Essex vision for drug education.

“In Essex, every learner has the knowledge, problem solving and decision making skills necessary to be able to make informed choices about drug use and that they have the interpersonal skills and high self-esteem required to enable them to enact their decision with the least possible harm to themselves or others.”

Our curriculum is taught in the following ways:

- through classroom investigation to find out pupils current level of language and understanding;
- as part of the PSHE scheme of work which builds on concepts the pupil's already know and links with safety, relationship and communication skills;
- it will use language appropriate to the pupil's age, readiness, culture, ethnicity and vulnerability;
- it will draw on the backgrounds of the pupils;
- it will focus on relevant situations and subsequent emotions that influence choice;
- it will offer accurate information;
- whilst exploring possible consequences it will avoid shocking pupils;
- it will ensure equal access to the scheme of work for all pupils;
- as part of a programme of personal, social, moral and health education it will build on concepts that the children already know and understand. It will link with work on safety, relationships and communication skills. Pupils will have opportunities to discuss, have challenged and clarify their attitudes and beliefs about drug use.

Our school will inform parents in order that messages about drug misuse are consistent.

We will seek to work with other schools, where possible, in order to ensure that pupils receive drug education similar to their peers.

The school will work with other agencies in the community to support parents and pupils dealing with drug related issues.

Cressing Primary School works with staff, governors, parents and the wider community to give consistent messages about drugs. This is also evident as we are working towards Enhanced Healthy School status.

Scheme of Work

Drug education will be taught within the PSHE, citizenship and science schemes of work. This policy is linked to PSHE and Citizenship, the SEND Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

It is important to teach that some drugs are needed by children and adults in order for them to remain healthy. Pupils should be taught where it is safe to keep these drugs, that it is important that only adults administer drugs and that you should never take anyone else's medicine. Pupils should also be taught that some drugs are dangerous to our bodies and that they should refuse to accept these drugs.

It is important that pupils are taught strategies for dealing with peer pressure and are confident to say 'no' to substance abuse. Older pupils will need to explore how young people feel or what motivates them to try unprescribed drugs. It is important to target vulnerable pupils in drug related education.

The curriculum aims to educate pupils in preventing drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce the possibility of harm by developing their knowledge so they can make sensible decisions. There are procedures for drug related incidents.

Monitoring

Drug education will be monitored and assessed as part of the PSHE programme and the science element in accordance with the National Curriculum.

All drug related incidents will be written in a school log book. The Headteacher will deal with any media involvement.

A range of strategies can be used for consulting with pupils, staff, governors, parents and the wider community.

- draw and write activities for pupils to identify their perceptions and understanding about drugs;
- discussion in class and school council;
- involvement through the Healthy Schools (Provide);
- questionnaires for pupils and parents/carers;
- consultation meetings and workshops for parents/carers and others.

Equal Opportunities

At Cressing Primary School there is a policy of inclusion for all pupils and staff. Please see 'Equal Opportunities Policy'

Medicines

Cressing Primary School is a 'no smoking establishment'.

At our school pupils' prescribed medicines are kept in the office where they are administered. Any other medicines are not administered by our staff.

Staff Responsibility

Our named person for drug related incidents is Stewart Caplen.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Stewart Caplen.

Our Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Valerie Reynolds.

All staff have undertaken first aid training.

Safety

At Cressing Primary School we are aware that that some pupils may be at risk from parents, carers or staff who misuse drugs. Drug related incidents in school are extremely rare. All drugs carry risks and these should neither be exaggerated nor inappropriately minimised. The schools response to an incident will be measured and balanced against the extent or nature of the incident. Although many pupils will use over the counter medication, these can be lethal if misused. No drugs will be tolerated on the school premises or on school trips. If drugs are found this will be reported to the police. As a general rule parents will be notified of a school's concern over a drug related incident. If the Head teacher thinks the welfare of the pupil will be put at risk by this the Child Protection Team will be consulted. The school will offer information and advice as appropriate to parents. The school will invite a guest speaker from the Community Drug and Alcohol Service to address the parents where possible. Information related to drugs education will be shared with local primary and secondary colleagues through local cluster. The school and grounds should be regularly checked for signs of drug misuse. If a pupil or member of staff does touch something hazardous they should follow these procedures:

- immediately encourage the wound to bleed and wash with hot soapy water;
- do not suck the wound;
- dress the wound as normal;
- a senior member of staff will immediately contact the parents or carer;
- medical attention will be sought immediately.

Incident Management

Drug education aims to:

- minimise the number of young people engaged in drug use;
- delay the first use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- reduce the harm caused by drugs;
- enable those who have concerns about drugs to have access to information, advice and support.

The three areas associated with drug use are:

- 1 Health difficulties – long term damage to health (ie tobacco) or a sudden catastrophic incident (ie solvent) – many substances can have both effects (ie alcohol).

- 2 Social/ financial difficulties – conflict with parents, education etc.
- 3 Legal difficulties – some drug use is illegal and this can affect freedom, career and travel. (Legal status however should never be confused with potential harm to self or others).

Staff have a professional duty to investigate and take appropriate action, either individually or by referral, if they have reason to believe that any young person is at risk. Cressing Primary School has a legal duty to ensure that illegal drug use or the making or supply of controlled drugs does not take place on school premises or on school trips.

Staff may safely take possession of an unknown substance. The law states “that if a person took possession of a drug to prevent another committing an offence or continuing to commit an offence and then took speedy action to destroy the drug or hand it to an authorised person, this shall be a defence to the charge” (Section 5 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).