



## **DRUGS POLICY:-**

This policy supports our aim to assess and develop pupils' communication, ensuring all pupils are maximising their communicative potential, through communication supportive practice.

An effective learning environment is one which is communication-rich. Staff support pupils' development through a recognition of how communication underpins children's ability to learn and to build relationships. Utilising a Total Communication approach, staff know the appropriate combination of systems to support each pupil individually. Staff have regular communication training to ensure skills and knowledge are kept up to date.

This policy was adopted on:- \_\_Sept 2008\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Chair of Governing Body:- T Mottram \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Reviewed:- Autumn 2015\_\_\_\_\_ Date

To Review:- Autumn 2018\_\_\_\_\_

# **THE FOREST SCHOOL**

## **DRUGS POLICY**

### **Introduction**

This school understands that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and that experimentation with drugs can be a feature of some young people's lives. It is the responsibility of the school to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug prevention and help those who misuse drugs. This policy takes into consideration the school's legal responsibility, governors, parents/ carers, external agencies and the local community. As a school we believe that the interests and well being of all pupils and staff is paramount.

This policy links to the school's PSHCE, Behaviour, Medicines, Child Protection, Confidentiality and Health and Safety policies.

### **Definitions**

By drugs we mean any substance, excluding food, which, when used brings about changes in the user. Changes can include perceptions, feelings, moods and behaviour. Drugs can thus include medicines, tobacco, and alcohol, solvents used as drugs, "poppers" and illegal substances including cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, heroine and cocaine. This broad definition recognises that whilst some drugs may be regarded as helpful, some perceived as "socially acceptable", all substances have the potential to be harmful and some, fatal even in the short term.

### **School position**

- The school takes a strong stand and will not tolerate the abuse or misuse of drugs, the supplying of illegal drugs or any substance not authorised to be on school premises, or in the possession of anyone under the jurisdiction of the school.
- We are committed to promote the health, safety and welfare of our pupils. Staff and visitors and will act to promote their well-being at all times. This will be achieved by a programme of drug education and by dealing with any drug-related incidents that may arise.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

- The head teacher has ultimate responsibility for policy content, review and implementation, liaison with governors, parents, teachers, LEA and other bodies including the media. Responsibility for sanctioning responses to drug related incidents and liaising with relevant staff, parents, police, drug agencies and other appropriate individuals.
- School leaders are responsible for co-ordinating and planning the delivery of the programme of drug education within the whole school curriculum and for establishing links with other relevant schools and external agencies and co-ordinating training and support for staff.

### **Drug education**

We live in a world where drugs of all descriptions are available and accessible from medicines, tobacco and alcohol to substances which are illegal. We recognise that the choices and decisions that individuals make about the role of any drugs in their lives result in consequences not only for themselves but also for families, friends and the wider community.

Through our drug education we aim to enable children and young people to;

- explore attitudes and values
- acquire skills of informed decision making
- develop their knowledge and understanding to be able to make responsible, informed and healthier choices about the role of drugs in their lives
- understand how decisions about drugs can have legal, social, economic and health consequences
- know where and how to access support

These aims will be met through the programmes of study within the taught curriculum, where anyone from outside the school contributes to the programme of work, they will do so in accordance with this policy and in line with the LA Guidelines for Partners in Education (forms HS1 and HS2 -Support for schools ) see Appendix.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies, when appropriate, such as community police, social services, the LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drug education.

### **Training and support for staff**

Teachers have access to ongoing support and training as part of their own professional development. Teaching resources are reviewed for relevance and appropriateness, paying attention to ethnicity, equal opportunities and diversity.

**Progress of individual pupils** in drugs education will be assessed by the class teacher for knowledge and understanding, acquisition and demonstration of skills and changes in attitude. This will be monitored by lesson observations and some sampling of pupils' work where appropriate.

### **Dealing with drug related incidents**

Any drug related incident will be considered on its merits with due regard to balancing the interests of any individual involved with those of the wider school community. Examples of responses to drug related incidents vary from a reprimand to being reported to the police, from being offered advice and support to being excluded from school. As the latter only serves to transfer problems, not resolve them, exclusions will normally be a sanction reserved for use when other measures have failed. In dealing with Drug related incidents, the headteacher will liaise with parents or carers as appropriate to the circumstances of each incident. Drug - related incident management record ( see Appendix )

In dealing with incidents the following will be taken into account : confidentiality, Police contact, Parents, Drugs on premises / persons.