

## Weaverthorpe CE (VC) Primary School

### Drug Education Policy

#### **Our Christian aims:**

- ♥ To be a welcoming rural school with a friendly Christian ethos, where learning is exciting, challenging and engaging; and where children reach their full potential.
- ♥ To discover and nurture children's potential and well-being within a happy, safe and stimulating environment.
- ♥ To encourage care, respect and celebration for themselves, **all** others and the environment in which they live and learn.
- ♥ To deliver high standards of teaching where we can develop questioning minds and skills for life-long learning.

#### **Our Christian values:**

##### **We will be:**

- ✓ Respectful – to show empathy towards each other and to respect all and their belongings.
- ✓ Good learners – we will demonstrate good learning behaviour and meet challenges in a positive way.
- ✓ Trustworthy – we will tell the truth and show that we can be relied upon.
- ✓ Kind, forgiving and patient – with ourselves and each other.
- ✓ Fit and healthy – we will know how to live healthy, active lives.

##### **We will:**

- ✓ Enjoy learning – we all want school to be good fun!
- ✓ Care for the environment - at school and in the wider world
- ✓ Have good manners
- ✓ Be confident and believe in ourselves.
- ✓ Become independent – as we learn.

Drug Education is one element of Weaverthorpe Primary School's work in Science and in Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship (PSHCE).

#### **Rationale and Statutory Requirements**

Weaverthorpe Primary School recognises that young people are exposed from an early age to messages about drug use from the media, family and older friends. We wish to promote the development of the 'whole person', which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

#### **Aims**

Drug education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It is not just about giving information on drugs; it also aims to help our pupils make responsible and healthier informed choices.

We aim to encourage all pupils to:

- develop and demonstrate a sense of responsibility towards themselves and others;
- develop values and attitudes and the personal skills needed to make responsible choices: become aware of self and develop their self-esteem and self-discipline;
- develop positive attitudes towards personal health;
- have an understanding of how they can influence their peers and their peers can influence them;
- acquire an awareness of attitudes and values towards drugs and drug issues within their own community;
- know about the effects of substances taken into the body;
- understand that many drugs have medicinal benefits but that all substances can also be harmful including, if not used properly, medicines;
- know about rules and laws relating to drugs;
- develop and demonstrate skills to avoid being subject to pressure, exploitation and abuse;
- know where and how to find help and advice.

Our Drug Education Policy recognises that drug taking covers a broad spectrum. We recognise that young people frequently receive very mixed, and often contradictory, messages. It is important that we are clear and consistent in our use of language. The definitions below are used:

**Drug** refers to a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. Drugs include:

| Over the counter prescription medicines   | Legal drugs   | Illegal drugs  |
|---|---|--|
| eg<br>paracetamol, aspirin;<br>asthma inhalers;<br>antibiotics,<br>antihistamines | eg<br>alcohol; tobacco; volatile substances<br>(those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled eg glue, aerosols); 'legal highs' | <i>also known as controlled drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) class A, B and C</i><br>eg<br>cocaine, ecstasy;<br>cannabis, amphetamines |

**Drug use / taking** involves the use of any drug; any drug use can potentially lead to harm.

**Drug misuse** is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and / or dependence.

**Drug education** is the provision of opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It is a major component of drug prevention.

**Drug prevention** aims to: minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use that is not medically advised; delay the age of onset of first use; reduce the harm caused by drugs; and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **The Headteacher will:**

- liaise with staff;
- keep the governing body fully informed of issues and progress in Drug Education;
- act upon any concerns which may arise from pupil disclosure during Drug Education sessions;
- act upon any incidents concerning drugs in school, including drugs or paraphernalia found on school premises.

### **The Governing Body will:**

- be well informed through the leadership of the headteacher and staff.

### **The Staff will:**

- ensure they are confident in the skills to teach and discuss Drug Education issues;
- teach children about drugs and their effects to prepare pupils for the choices, pressures and responsibilities of adult life;
- inform the headteacher about any pupil disclosure during Drug Education sessions.

### **External Agencies**

Visitors may be invited to help the teaching and learning process. Injury Minimization Programme for Schools (IMPS) may be used to deliver drug education. Crucial Crew may be used to deliver drug education.

### **Parents will :**

- be encouraged to support their children in developing positive attitudes to this area;
- be encouraged to maintain an awareness of current drugs issues.

**October 2015**

**Review Oct 2017**