



# Lisnadill Primary School

Excellence in Education

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## DRUGS POLICY

Below is a brief overview of our Drugs Policy.

For the purpose of this document the term 'drugs' includes tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs. Lisnadill Primary School does not condone the misuse of drugs but recognises that there has been a considerable increase in the abuse in recent years in Northern Ireland. Drug misuse appears to be affecting an ever-younger population and the so-called "recreational" use of drugs can lead to a dangerous acceptance of illegal and harmful drug misuse as part of everyday life.

We believe that Lisnadill Primary School has a vital preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include a Drug education programme in our curriculum.

Lisnadill Primary School sees its role as that of a caring community committed to the physical, mental, social, emotional, moral and spiritual health, safety and well being of our pupils and staff.

We want our pupils to make informed and responsible decisions about drugs by increasing their knowledge and by developing in them appropriate values, attitudes and skills. However, we recognise that drug misuse is a whole-community issue and that schools alone cannot solve that drugs problem: the school is only one of a number of groups and agencies which must play a part in the education of young people and we make use of the expertise of others where possible in the delivery of the programme.

"There is a public perception that drug misuse is mainly an issue in disadvantaged inner city area.... Drug misuse is just as much in rural areas and affluent communities: it extends across socioeconomic, geographical and cultural boundaries. Educationally successful young people are just as likely to put themselves at risk as low attainers." (DENI 1996/16)

All staff (teaching and non-teaching), should familiarise themselves with the information included in this policy and further copies may be obtained from the Designated Teachers for Drugs (Mrs Sandra Bratten).

Copies of the guidance on which this policy is based are available from the Department of Education website [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)

## **AIMS OF THE SCHOOL:**

Lisnadill Primary School will offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum will seek to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil to develop self-confidence and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

To have a clear and agreed understanding, amongst everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.

To provide all staff (teaching and non-teaching) with adequate training and support to enable them to deal effectively and confidently with incidents of suspected drug misuse, and to ensure that the procedures are sensitively and consistently applied in all situations.

To empower teaching staff through appropriate training and support to develop and deliver an effective drug education programme.

To provide a drug education programme which

- Develops pupils' awareness of how valuable they are and promotes positive attitudes in their relationships with others
- Gives pupils opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about the use/misuse of drugs including tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances, within the context of a healthy lifestyle; and
- Help pupils develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative pressures and influences. To provide appropriate support and assistance for those pupils affected by drug-related issues. To inform parents of the content of this policy and the procedures to be implemented in the management of incidents of suspected drug misuse. To establish an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of all drugs.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **Pupils**

- Be aware (age appropriate) of and adhere to school rules in relation to drug use/misuse, including tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs.

### **All staff (teaching and non-teaching)**

- Be alert to the possibility of drug use/misuse.
- Be familiar with the school's procedures in the handling of suspected drug-related incidents.

- It is not the responsibility of the individual staff members to investigate the circumstances surrounding an incident, however he/she should deal with any emergency procedures if necessary.
- Any information, substances or paraphernalia received should be forwarded to the Designated Teacher for drugs who may have to take immediate action.
- Teachers delivering the Drugs Education programme.

**In addition to the above:**

- Deliver the school's drug 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
- Liaise with the Designated Teacher for drugs regarding any aspect of the programme/policy, as necessary.

**The Designated Teacher for Drugs (Mrs Sandra Bratten)**

- Ensure that all staff and parents are aware of and have access to a copy of the policy
- Have oversight and co-ordination of the planning or curricular provision in compliance with the statutory requirements including periodic update and review of the policy.
- Liaise with other staff responsible for pastoral care in co-ordinating the delivery of the drug education programme.
- Co-ordinate training and induction of all staff in the procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- Be responsible for co-ordinating the school's procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- Determine the circumstances surrounding the incident,
- Complete a suspected incident report from and forward to principal.
- Ensuring the engagement and active participation of parents in all aspects of drug education.
- Act as the point of contact for outside agencies working with the school.

**Parents/Guardians**

- Support your son/daughter if they have become involved with drugs.
- Support the school in the development and implementation of this policy, including the school's procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse and the drug education programme.

**TRAINING AND INFORMATION:**

All staff (teaching and non-teaching) and Governors will be provided with training to support the full implementation of this policy including the delivery of the drug education programme. (Information awareness sessions will be offered to parent/guardians).

### **DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME:**

The drugs education programme in Lisnadill Primary School is just one part of the whole school response to drug use/misuse. The programme provides opportunities for pupils to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding in relation to drug use/misuse:
- Identify values and attitudes in relation to drug use/misuse;
- Develop skills to enable them to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others; and
- Make informed and responsible choices within the context of a healthy lifestyle.

### **THE SCHOOL'S POSITION ON DRUGS:**

As part of its commitment to the welfare of its pupils, the school does not permit the misuse/illegal use of drugs, including tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs.

Fundamental to dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse is the principal of 'in loco parentis', and Lisnadill Primary School will always take steps that would reasonably be expected of any parent to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of all the pupils in their charge.

### **PRINCIPAL:**

Determine circumstances of the incident

Ensure the following are informed where relevant

1. Parents/guardians
2. Police (Community and Schools Involvement Officer (CSIO))
3. School Governors
4. Designated Officer in the SELB

- Agree pastoral and disciplinary responses
- Forward copy of incident report to above people
- Review procedures and amend if necessary
- By law the Police should be notified in ALL instances where it has been alleged or is suspected that a crime has been committed

### **PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATION:**

It is recommended that teachers administer prescribed medicines to pupils. If a decision is made to administer a prescribed medicine, the teacher must receive any appropriate training and the parent/guardian and doctor must give written instructions and authority to do so.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

Lisnadill Primary School will ensure that procedures are put in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of all aspects of the policy. Information will be regularly collected from pupils and staff as part of the monitoring process, and this will then be evaluated against the aims and objectives of the policy at the appropriate intervals.

1. This is to ensure the safety of the individual pupil involved, of other pupils, yourself and other staff. On finding a situation with a suspected substance
2. Ensure all incidents are properly investigated and recorded
3. Ensure appropriate individuals and agencies are informed and contacted as needed