**NEWPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**DRUGS EDUCATION AND PREVENTION POLICY**

**Policy Statement**
This policy document sets out the school’s aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of Drugs Education and Drugs Prevention in our school. Drugs Education is taught within the PSHE scheme of work.

**Context**
Newport Community School is a community primary school for boys and girls aged 3-11. The school presently has 444 children on roll who come from single and dual parent families. In each year there are a few children identifies with special educational needs. There is a wide social mix and very varied family backgrounds. The school covers urban residential areas and also has pupils who travel in from local villages.

**Audience**
This policy document, having been presented to and agreed by staff and Governing Body, will be distributed to all members of teaching staff and will be freely available to Parents, Carers and visitors to the school. Further copies will be available from the school office or school’s portal.

**Drugs Education – A whole school approach**
As a school, we are aware that certain groups of children may be more vulnerable to the use or misuse of drugs than others. These groups may include:

- Looked after children.
- Children of parents / carers who use or misuse drugs including alcohol.
- Children excluded from school
- Children who truant
- Victims of abuse
- Children in contact with mental health services or the criminal justice system.

The aim of Drugs Education is to address realistically and honestly the issues facing young people concerning drug use and to promote healthy, informed choices. It is also an effective component of drug prevention. Research has shown that Drugs Education can achieve modest reductions in the consumption, onset and associated risks of cannabis, alcohol and tobacco.

The delivery of Drugs Education contributes to the requirements of the Education Act 1996 which expects every school to provide a balanced curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.
- Prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
In addition to this document, the Every Child Matters Framework notes an expectation that children will be supported by schools to achieve the following outcomes:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Economic well being.

Under the ‘Being Healthy’ outcome, Drugs Education will contribute to supporting children’s physical health, mental health, promote healthy lifestyles and discourage children from smoking and solvent abuse (including alcohol, solvents and drugs).

As a school, we are expected to deliver Drugs Education using the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Curriculum. This document states that:

- At Key Stage 1 – pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.
- At Key Stage 2 – pupils should be taught about the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on the human body, and how these relate to personal health.

**Aims and objectives**

Drugs Education aims to educate the children for living in a drug-using society, it is concerned with providing information, exploring issues and helping children develop their abilities to make choices.

Through the PSHE and Drugs Education scheme of work, our school aims to:

- Promote supportive and safe relationships.
- Improve children’s knowledge of drugs and the effects on the human body.
- Raise children’s awareness of the consequences of drug use and misuse to the individual, peers, families, local communities and society.
- Increase awareness of the ways of minimising the risks and unwanted consequences of drug use.
- Enable children to make informed and sensible choices about their drug use.
- Equip children with the skills and techniques appropriate for handling situations leading to drugs and drug use.
- Promote children’s understanding of why drugs are used and misused.
- Support children in exploring and developing their own attitudes to drug use.
- Enable children to make sense of the often confusing messages that they may receive from parents, peers and the media.
- Enable children and their families to identify sources of information and support if they require them.

Drug Prevention aims to reduce the misuse of drugs and reduce the harm that they can cause.

The aims of our drug prevention activities are:

- To make the school a health promoting environment.
- To provide drug education to children and parents / carers of our school.
- To make information available about drugs and drugs use to children and their families.
To ensure that the school premises is a safe environment with respect to drugs.

To have a Drugs Education Policy and scheme of work in place.

To be prepared to talk to children about drug related problems and offer them appropriate advice.

To help children in their decision making skills.

The aims of this policy also link to other policies available from the Head teacher. These include:

- Health and Safety.
- Behaviour/ Anti – bullying.
- PSHE and Citizenship.
- Child Protection.
- Pastoral care.
- Confidentiality.
- Looked After Children.
- Medicines.

**Curriculum Content**

Drugs Education will be taught through the PSHE scheme of work, which in turn is adapted from the ‘Health For Life’ publication, Science lessons, and ‘The Life Education Centre’.

By using the ‘Health for Life’ publication, the school ensures that new information builds on children’s existing knowledge and understanding and is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development.

The strand of the PSHE and Citizenship scheme of work where Drugs Education can be located is under the heading of ‘Medicines and Drugs’, ‘Healthy Lifestyles’, and ‘Keeping Safe’.

The delivery of Drugs Education is also carefully planned through annual visits of the ‘Life Education Centre’. All children have access to this experience which is used as a resource alongside teacher lead lessons.

Further information on the delivery of Drugs Education and time allocation for PSHE and Citizenship can be found in the PSHE and Citizenship policy and scheme of work.

**Recording and Assessment**

As a school, we think it is important not to assess children purely on the factual knowledge gained but also to consider whether they are able to make healthy, informed choices. With this in mind, assessment will be through:

- Children’s self assessment.
- Teacher assessment - through observation, written work or discussions.

Children will record their learning in a variety of ways including, discussion, illustrations, through role play and written work.

Children’s individual reports sent out in the Spring Term include progress in P.S.H.E and Citizenship and parents are made to feel welcome to make an appointment with a class teacher after school if there is a concern or issue.
Resources
An annual budget is given to spend on PSHE resources and these resources are centrally kept in the PSHE cupboard and are available for parents/carers to view if requested.

Planning
Planning to show continuity and progression of skills and knowledge at all ages is carried out using the 'Health for Life’ publications (4-7 and 8-11) and the guidelines in the National Curriculum Framework for P.S.H.E and Citizenship and Science. The scheme of work is used to aid medium term planning. Weekly plans detail specific learning objectives for activities to be carried out and allow for teachers to record the outcomes for each session to inform future planning. Planning is monitored by the Head Teacher.

Differentiation
A range of strategies will be employed to allow what is being taught and how it is presented to be accessible to the children’s individual aptitudes and abilities. Differentiation may be by task, by resources, by support or by content.

Equal Opportunities
All children should have equal access to the Drugs Education curriculum regardless of race, gender, learning ability or cultural background.

S.E.N
Teacher’s medium term plans will identify any children who may be in need of extra support, differentiated resources, activity or input.

Other Issues
Management of Drug Related Incidents

The member of staff with responsibility for dealing with drug related incidents on the school premises is the Head Teacher.

This section also has links to other policies available from the school office. These policies include:

- Health and Safety
- Behaviour management
- Looked After Children
- Child Protection
- Pastoral Care
- Confidentiality.
- Medicines

Our school sends a clear message to the whole school community that the possession, use or supply of illicit and unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is not acceptable.

An ‘incident’ can involve suspicions, observations, disclosure or discoveries of illicit and other unauthorised drugs and could include:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on the school premises.
- A child found in possession of drugs or paraphernalia.
- A child demonstrates, through action or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age.
- A child who is thought to be under the influence of drugs.
- A child is displaying signs of illness or inappropriate behaviour as a result of substance misuse.
- A child discloses that they are misusing drugs or a family member / friend is misusing drugs.
- A parent / carer is thought to be under the influence of drugs on school premises.

A member of staff, who is aware of any of the above, should inform the named member of staff immediately who will then take appropriate action, seeking further advice and support if necessary.