An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

An Daras Multi-Academy Trust
Drug Awareness Policy

The An Daras Multi Academy Trust (ADMAT) Company
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee
Company Number/08156955

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Recommended	
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Linked Documents and Policies	ADMAT PSHE Policy ADMAT Science Policy ADMAT SMSC Policy ADMAT Schemes of Learning

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Rationale

Reference to 'drugs' is an emotive issue. Society as a whole is anxious about the effects of drug misuse and yet does not always clarify its understanding of the issues. Different groups in society have different perceptions of the dangers and acceptability of different drug types.

In some circles drugs can be glamourised and the subject open to misunderstandings. Drugs education in primary schools can cause alarm and yet is essential if we are to equip our children with the necessary skills, understanding and knowledge to move confidently into adult life.

We have a responsibility to inform our children of the facts relating to the substances they will and do encounter in their environment. In many cases they will have already experienced the effect of drugs in the adults around them. It is important that we are sensitive to the experiences that children may have.

We will not tolerate the misuse of drugs within the schools and their grounds. This includes adults who come on to the school premises and may be intoxicated or in possession of illegal drugs.

Our schools are no-smoking areas and we request all adults to refrain from smoking (including use of e cigarettes or devices) around MAT premises. This has also been extended to after-school fund-raising events.

We recognise that some of our children and parents need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these. Further information can be found in our health and safety policy.

This drugs policy is part of our overall approach to health and well-being. Through our PHSE and SMSC curriculum and our schools ethos we aim to ensure that children recognise the importance of what they chose to eat and drink and the effect which this can have. Self-respect and a healthy lifestyle are all part of an approach which will enable our children to make the right choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

Definition of 'Drugs' for the Benefit of this Policy

The term refers to:

- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances
- All over the counter and prescription medicines

Aims

- To provide the information and support for children to be able to make lifestyle choices
- To encourage a supportive ethos in which issues can be discussed and questions answered
- Ensure the safety of staff and pupils when on the school site
- Provide appropriate role models and examples to illustrate a healthy lifestyle
- Take a firm stance against illegal drugs
- Raise awareness for children of the importance of their choices in forging a healthy lifestyle.
- Recognise the valuable role that medication can have
- Acknowledge that not all family members may make healthy choices and some of the reasons why
- Enable children to develop a self-awareness and realise the power they have to determine their own lives
- Provide a whole school approach to issues of healthy life style
- Draw attention to the effect which peers can have upon the decisions that we make and the need to take a considered approach to this
- Alert children to ways of seeking additional help and support where necessary
- Ensure that children have access to balanced information and views against which they can clarify their own opinions to help children establish the difference between fact, opinion and belief

There are a number of ways in which we aim to help children understand the implication of drug use and misuse. We recognise that drugs impinge on many of our children's lives in a variety of ways and the subject needs careful handling. We are also aware of the impact of national initiatives and publicity campaigns. We aim to involve different deliverers in providing different perspectives on the issue and to provide opportunity for children to ask questions and share their existing knowledge.

There may be many misconceptions which will need to be addressed in a sensitive and factual way. Where teachers are unsure it is acceptable to refrain from answering the question until further clarification can be sought. The methods we use may include:

PHSE and SMSC Curriculum Provision

During our annual learning cycle these aspects are discussed:

- Safety in the handling of household products and medicine (Year 3)
- The effect of smoking and drinking upon our lives and those around us (Year 4)
- The category of 'illegal drugs' and what children understand and know about these (Year 5)
- Building ourselves a healthy lifestyle – looking to the future (Year 6)

School Nurse

The school nurse is a recognised, familiar figure in our schools. Although on hand to support individual cases and families she also helps to deliver aspects of our drugs education by providing some medical information about the effect and use of medicines within our society.

Using Fiction

At different times picture books are used as a resource to help support the PHSE and SMSC curriculum. Using stories enables discussion about issues which can be quite sensitive without appearing to target any individual.

Science

As part of our science curriculum we include:

- The role of medicines in our lives (Year 3)
- The effects of alcohol and tobacco on our health (Year 4)
- The effects and risks of illegal drugs on health, family and future (Year 5)
- What we mean by a healthy lifestyle and the effect which different food, drink and drugs can have upon us both emotionally and physically (Year 6)

Health Week

Our annual health week provides an additional opportunity to highlight issues relating to drugs. As the normal timetable is suspended individual classes further their understanding through research, independent enquiry and a variety of visits and visitors. This helps to support both the factual basis of their knowledge as well as the recognition of these issues as relevant to all society

Drama

Drama provides an excellent opportunity through role-play and improvisation to explore some of the issues relating to the use of drugs. Children can engage with one another to explore the feelings that individuals in different scenarios might have. On occasions role play might be used as part of a class assembly.

In the Event of Disclosure

There may be times during discussions about drugs when children make disclosures. Where this is the case the teacher should sensitively listen to what the child has to say whilst also avoiding further disclosure in front of the class.

At the end of the lesson it might be appropriate to spend some time with the child allowing them opportunity to speak but following the child protection policy, not asking questions or writing down at this stage. Confidentiality cannot be promised.

As soon as is reasonable, the class teacher should pass on their own concerns to the designated person who will follow the agreed procedure for disclosure handling. The class teacher should always ensure they remain calm and should not appear shocked by what children might have to say.

Drug Use on the Premises

Our school makes it clear that drug use on the premises is not acceptable except in the case of prescribed medication which is known to senior management. This includes:

- Smoking (including e-cigarettes of devices)on or around the school premises either during the school day or during evening events
- Alcohol on the school site during the school day
- Alcohol consumed by adults in the playground
- Adults on the school premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement
- Adults in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the school premises

Where school staff suspects that there is transgression of these guidelines senior management should be informed immediately at which point a judgement will be made as to whether they should:

- Approach the individual
- Call the police
- Make arrangements to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of children on the school site

At all times the safety of the children remains the key factor in any decision made whilst staff should also be alert to the danger they may bring on themselves by certain courses of action.

Any repeat of transgressions might be referred to the ADMAT Board in order for legal action to be taken.

If there is concern that parents collecting a child may potentially place that child at risk the school can, in extreme circumstances, refuse to hand over the pupil. The appropriate services would then be notified immediately.

Drug Use by Pupils

It is very rare for primary school pupils to be identified as taking non-medicinal drugs. However, on occasions it might come to the attention of staff that children have been smoking or drinking or taking drugs or be in the company, on occasions of adolescents who are.

Each case should be taken individually and the appropriate course of action decided by a senior member of staff. The Designated Child protection Officers must be informed and the incident logged onto the “My Concern” Child Protection database. Action may include:

- Use of the school behaviour policy
- Referral to parents
- Referral to the police
- Referral to social services
- Referral to another external agency
- Use of the nurture room for discussion
- Counselling and support for the individual child/children

A combination of the above might be used. Decisions will be based on the immediate and long-term safety of the child involved and the nature and time of the incidents. Parental involvement in any discussion is crucial except where the incident is one considered to relate to child protection. In this case the child protection policy should followed and immediate referral made.

Needles/Sharps

These will be removed by the identified member of staff using thick leather gloves and placed in a 'sharps box'.

Alcohol or Tobacco

Parents/carers will be informed and asked to come and collect the items/and or agree it should be safely disposed of by the school.

Illegal Drugs

Temporary possession of these should be taken in the presence of another adult. The drug should be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the time and date when found. The police should then be notified. They should then be kept in a locked place in the school office until collected by the police.

Special Needs and Disabilities

It is appropriate that all children have access to the information covered in or drug education programme. Arrangement should be made within classrooms to enable this happen either through additional LSA support or the adaptation of curriculum materials. In most cases the largely discursive nature of the subject will mean that all children have equal access.

It should be noted that some children will need to use medication regularly as part of their own special needs. This might be for either physical or emotional reasons. Care should be taken at all times to draw a distinction between different types of drugs use and enable children to see the value that drugs can have in our society to large groups of people.

There might be opportunity for individual with first-hand experience of taking medication for particular ailments to share their experiences and discuss some of the side effects and benefits

that such reliance at times can have. Any such involvement should be discussed with the child concerned and their parents.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited to inspect the school drug policy and representatives support the Local Governing Body in making decisions about drugs education practice.

Parents are informed about their child's termly curriculum including an overview of drugs education coverage if relevant. Where parents do have concerns they should be invited into school to share these and to see any materials that are being used and discuss with professionals the issues that concern them. It might also be appropriate for the school nurse to be invited in to discuss issues relating to drugs with parents and staff as and when the need arises.

Assessment

It is useful to include a before and after assessment of drugs and their use. For example an initial lesson might request children to draw examples of different drugs. This can provide a basis upon which to discuss what children perceive as a drug. At the end of the unit a similar activity will hopefully demonstrate conceptual development. Where particular issues remain this should be noted on feed forward information as well as being clarified with the group itself.

Assessment for learning is an integral part of our teaching. Children should be asked to share their level of understanding, the most effective teaching techniques and what they believe will help them further as units of work progress. In some cases group work will enable children to support one another.

The elements of the drug awareness curriculum in science will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum.