

## **Icknield Walk First School**

### **Drug Education in primary schools - information for parents**

#### **Why have drug education in primary schools?**

Children learn about drugs like medicines, alcohol and tobacco from their families and the community in which they live. They learn how their parents, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives treat these drugs by watching what they do and listening to what they say. Young children also learn about drugs from television programmes and magazines that they see in their own homes and in the homes of relatives and friends.

School drug education programs aim to give children accurate information about drugs and drug use. Pupils learn safety messages about medicines and develop the skills that they need to stay safe around drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.

#### **What is a drug?**

Drugs are found everywhere in today's society. Doctors prescribe them, hotels and tobacconists sell them and illegal drugs can be bought on the streets. Drugs can change how the mind and body works. Legal drugs include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and medicines. Illegal drugs include marijuana, heroin, ecstasy and cocaine. Some other chemicals like petrol and glue can be inhaled by children.

Although they are not drugs, they can act like drugs and do great harm.

### **What is taught in primary school education?**

Drug education is taught as part of the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) area. It may also be included as part of the Science curriculum.

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils learn:

- About the role of drugs as medicines.

In Years 3 and 4 pupils learn:

- About the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health.

For further details, see the PSHEC scheme of work on the school's website on [www.icknielwalk.herts.sch.uk](http://www.icknielwalk.herts.sch.uk)

### **What can parents do?**

Parents are the most important educators of their children. This is especially true in very personal areas such as drugs. It is always helpful when parents support and reinforce the school's own health messages. Parents need to talk honestly about drug issues with their children and to listen carefully to what their children have to say.