#### Lochdonhead Primary School Draft Drug Policy –November 2013



*“A health promoting school is one in which all members of the school community work together to provide pupils with integrated and positive experiences and structures which promote and protect their health. This includes both the formal and the informal curriculum in health, the creation of a safe and healthy school environment, the provision of appropriate health services and the involvement of the family and wider community in efforts to promote health.”*

World Health Organisation (WHO), 1995

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school’s responsibility to ensure the child’s health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of staff.

###### **Rationale**

Lochdonhead Primary School recognises that young people in today’s society can be exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists. The school wishes 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. Drugs education is therefore an integral part of the school curriculum.

**Drugs Education in Context**

A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential and pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

**The Place of Drugs Education within the Curriculum**

The Curriculum for Excellence includes the teaching about drugs within Health and Wellbeing. Within the Health and Wellbeing experiences and outcomes, ‘Learners develop their understanding of the use and misuse of a variety of substances including over the counter and prescribed medicines, alcohol, drugs, tobacco and solvents. They explore and develop their understanding of the impact of risk-taking behaviour on their life choices. The experiences and outcomes will enable learners to make informed personal choices with the aim of promoting healthy lifestyles.’ CfE

At an early stage, pupils learn in a supportive environment about things they should not touch or eat and how to get help in unsafe situations. This is built upon over the first, second, third and fourth levels to develop an understanding of substance misuse, importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and the importance of making informed decisions.

**Procedures for Handling Incidents**

A suspected drug related incident is described as

* Suspect drugs found on the school premises
* A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
* A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
* A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
* An adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

* Make the situation safe
* Send for support
* Administer first aid if necessary
* If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police
* Report the incident

The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Head Teacher who will contact the police. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the Head Teacher. If a search needs to be made the Head Teacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

**Confidentiality**

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure by the Head Teacher.