

NOT SURE YOU NEED, OR WANT, A DRUGS FOR YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL?

WHY?

SOME OF YOUR ANSWERS MIGHT INCLUDE:

- ✘ We're a small (primary / infant) school and we don't need a drugs education / incidents policy...
- ✘ Policies can be too long, wordy, irrelevant, meaningless in the context of what we really do
- ✘ We've got enough policies to do / that we must have already...
- ✘ We are just going through the motions to get a tick in a box from someone or other...
- ✘ I've got enough to do...
- ✘ Etc. etc.

A DILEMMA...

...because the government requires schools to have some policies including those for drugs education and incidents management and Sex and Relationships Education - especially if you want to become a healthy school!

And there are very good reasons why schools should have such policies (as long as they are practical and in practice).

Policies can help the school community:

- ✘ understand the issues
- ✘ have a conversation about the best solutions / responses to meet the needs of school and the children you teach
- ✘ provide clear guidance on actions needed in response to incidents / concerns
- ✘ provide clear guidance on what / how to teach (to ensure continuity / consistency)
- ✘ help with evaluation of impact / effectiveness

- ✘ involve parents and carers in the life of the school

SOLUTION?

We're a pragmatic lot in the Cornwall Healthy Schools Team we want you to have really good, effective policies but we sympathise with a lot of what you tell us and we acknowledge the need to help you find solutions that meet the requirements, work for the school and have an impact on your pupils' education.

MODEL POLICIES / FRAMEWORK POLICIES / BLANK SHEET OF PAPER?

We could say "Tough, you need one. Here's some **guidelines and a blank sheet of paper**, off you go..."

...but why reinvent the wheel? And why alienate an awful lot of people in one go.

We could provide a **complete model policy** with a space to add the school name and a date but in the area of policy development one size certainly doesn't fit all and this really would be just going through the motions for all concerned.

So we want to help schools develop meaningful, relevant workable policies by providing:

- ✘ *some* guidance about what has to be included in the policy, including some of the 'standard' text; headings etc.
- ✘ some key questions to get you thinking about what needs to be in the policy that will make it meaningful / relevant to your school and the needs of your school.
- ✘ some pointers to sources of advice and further information about consulting on / developing / reviewing / evaluating your policy.

For more information on our help for developing policies see the website:

www.healthpromcornwall.org/

or contact us at

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