



Drugs & Alcohol Policy

Primary Level



Approved by: FGB Primaries

Last reviewed on: May 2025

Next review due: May 2026

INTRODUCTION

Staff responsible for drugs issues: The PSHRE Lead is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff and liaising with any external agencies to support the curriculum.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services. The deputy Head is responsible for developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy.

There is also a governor with a lead on drugs issues, who liaises with the school about curriculum and policy.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies; PSHE and Citizenship, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Safeguarding and Administration of Medicines

DEFINITION OF DRUGS

This guidance describes drugs as “A substance people take that changes the way they feel, think or behave”. This refers to legal and illegal drugs:

- Drugs that are illegal* (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS-formerly known as “legal highs”) GHB, anabolic steroids and khat
- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18 year olds including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents)
- Drugs that are legal to use such as poppers, caffeine drinks
- Over the counter and prescription medicines

Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

WHY A POLICY IS NEEDED

We understand that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. The DfE advises all schools to have an up to date policy.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.

APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING PUPILS FROM DRUG AND ALCOHOL HARMS

As part of being a healthy school we take a proactive and whole school approach through

- Teaching a planned drug education programme in and Science
- Considering carefully our responses to drug-related incidents
- Providing access to specialist support and advice for pupils at risk of drug-related harm and those with drug or alcohol misuse in the family
- Providing training and support for staff so they feel confident to teach drug education and manage any drug-related incidents
- Raising pupils' academic achievement and sense of belonging in school

DRUG EDUCATION

Aims of drug education

To give pupils age-appropriate and accurate information about substances (including substances in the home and everyday life, alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances and illegal drugs) and help them develop the skills and attitudes to keep safe and make healthy and responsible decisions

To achieve this, our drug education program will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to keep safe and manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

Where is it taught in the curriculum?

Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco is taught mainly through PSHE and citizenship and in Science at Year 6 where it is required in the National Curriculum.

Key Stage1 focuses on what are safe and unsafe substances, what medicines are, why people take medicines and how to take medicines safely, being ill and getting better and what to do if someone persuades you to take something dangerous

Key Stage 2 focuses on what a drug is (legal and illegal), the effects and risks of drugs; particularly tobacco (including shisha) and alcohol, managing peer influences and resisting pressure to take risks and be able to make safe decisions.

Scarf lessons

Nursery: What is safe to go in my body?

Year 2: Harold's Picnic

Year 3: Alcohol, Cigarettes and Vapes: the facts

Poorly Harold

Year 4: Know the norms

Medicines: check the labels

Year 5: Smoking: what is normal?

Drugs: True or False

Year 6: Rat Park

Drugs: What's the law?

Alcohol: What is normal?

Two sides to every story

What is taught?

We reflect the requirements and guidance

- in the science national curriculum
- the non-statutory national framework for PSHE and citizenship
- the Scarf curriculum
- and the PSHE Association programme of study.

Drug Education in Science

Year 6 have to be taught to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function

Non-statutory guidance

Pupils should learn how to keep their bodies healthy and how their bodies might be damaged – including how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body.

Pupils might work scientifically by: exploring the work of scientists and scientific research about the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle and health

In addition, in order to ensure that the drug education programme reflects the views of pupils and is appropriate and relevant to them, Key Stage 2 pupils take an active part in planning the programme through a range of ways such as:

- consultations with pupils through the school council
- completing end of topic evaluations
- assessments at the beginning of teaching drug education to establish prior knowledge and understanding

The drug education curriculum is reviewed as part of the annual PSHRE review led by the PSHRE Lead.

Who teaches drug education?

Drug education is taught by the class teacher. There are occasions that we might involve an external organisation or the school nurse for their expertise. When external organisations are used, the lessons are planned with them and the teacher is always present. We check the organisation and ensure they have the necessary experience and skills to deliver drug education to primary pupils. External visitors include but are not limited to Hillingdon Borough Council.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS IN SCHOOL

School's view about the use of drugs

This school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits, school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and those working and visiting the school.

Management of authorised legal drugs

This school has agreed that there are some circumstances, when some legal drugs are authorised for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol. Medicines are administered by the medical team based on pupil and staff care plans which are worked on with the school nurse and local health teams. Pupils may be given Calpol on site if parents have signed written consent form.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

Definition of a drug-related incident

In this school, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries.

Drug related incidents in a primary school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve:

Pupils smoking cigarettes in school, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk, pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils, misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another pupil, a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes at a local shop, the school keeper finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking in Camden.

School responses to drug-related incidents

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- the head teacher and deputy will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk. The Headteacher, in consultation with key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place.
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using CPOMS.

In all drug-related incidents the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.

It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

Medical emergencies when a pupil is unconscious as a result of drug use

Staff with first aid qualifications should be called immediately but the pupils not left alone. The pupil will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately. Parents/carers will be informed immediately.

Intoxication, when a pupil is under the influence of a drug

The pupil will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and Headteacher called. The pupil will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school.

Discovery/observation

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy.

If the substance is suspected to be illegal, staff can take temporary possession of it

- it will be confiscated, in the presence of a second member of staff as witness
- the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present and stored in a secure location (e.g. a safe or lockable container) with access limited to the Head and Deputy Head
- the pupil will be taken to the school office and the Head or Deputy Head called and the pupils questioned
- the police will be notified immediately, who will collect it and store or dispose of it, in line with locally agreed protocols.
- we will record details of the incident, including the police incident reference number
- we will inform the pupil's parents/carers and they will be asked to come into school, unless it is not in the best interests of the child to do so
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and sanctions response including internal exclusion whilst investigations are carried out.

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school) it will be disposed of or handed to the parent/carer.

Searches

Staff are allowed to confiscate pupil's property, as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so, including substances, whether legal or not.

If staff find other substances which are not believed to be illegal/controlled drugs these can be confiscated where staff believe them to be harmful or detrimental to good behaviour.

If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as an illegal drug.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is carrying illegal drugs on them or in their personal property, they will ask the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff. In circumstances where a pupil refuses to do this the member of staff will discuss with the Headteacher who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. The Headteacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then the Headteacher will authorise a senior member of staff. The search will take place in school or where staff have lawful control of pupils.

We will keep a record of the search and inform parents if a substance is found, although there is no legal requirement to do this or inform parents before or after a search or seek their consent to search a child.

Teachers can search bags and in circumstances where a member of staff believes drugs have been stored there, they will seek the pupils' consent and search with a Senior member of staff present. If consent is refused the decision to search will be taken by the Headteacher.

Dealing with drug-taking materials

School site staff make regular checks of the school grounds and know how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice.

Pupils are taught what to do if they come across needles on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.

Disclosure when a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use.

In these situations, staff will be non-judgmental and caring and will show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or Deputy should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

Suspicion/rumour. Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the pupil(s) involved.

Intoxicated parents/carers

Our schools rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

Needs of pupils

We are sensitive to the needs of pupils whose parent/carers or family members have problems with drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, we will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE and citizenship programme. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Head teacher.

WORKING WITH PARENTS/CARERS

The school welcomes parents/carers who wish to share with us, their concerns about drugs. We involve parents/carers when reviewing the drugs policy and hold regular sessions/workshops to explain what is taught in drug education, as well as give up to date information about drugs and where they can get further information, help and advice.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the child at risk and

in these cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher in liaison with the designated child protection officer with the child's welfare a priority.

INVOLVING POLICE

In most cases a drug-related incident will be a school, rather than a police matter. However the school will contact the (put in name of local Police Station) immediately if an illegal (or suspected illegal) drug has been found on the school premises, on a pupil or illegal drug dealing is taking place. We will only call 999 in an emergency.