Drug Education Policy	
Date of last review	**September 2026**
Next review due date	**September 2027**
Approved by Headteacher	

'Empowering children through sustainable, diverse, arts-enriched education'

Drug Education Policy

Introduction

Staff responsible for drugs issues: The PSHE 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 & DSL have overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services.

The Governing Body 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 policy uses the definition that a drug is: 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The term 'Drugs' includes

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Effective Drug and Alcohol Education can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils as they grow up. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

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
Although it is highly unlikely that illegal drugs will be in our primary school, we believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognize that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing and academic achievement. We therefore have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

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.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school.
- Provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school.
- Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education

Approach to tackling drugs

As part of being a healthy school we take a whole school approach to drugs through

- A planned drug education programme through PSHE and citizenship informed by pupils, staff and parent's views, as well as science
- Carefully considered responses to drug-related incidents informed and supported by the views of the whole school community
- Clear rules and sanctions related to drugs
- Access to specialist support and advice, if needed
- Providing training and support for staff

Drug education

Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco is taught through PSHE and citizenship and in Science where it is required in the National Curriculum. The 'Kapow - PSHE' scheme of work is informed by existing DfE guidance on Drug and Alcohol Education (DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools.)

The DfE statutory guidance for RSHE states that by the end of Primary School children should know;

- the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

Moral and Values Framework

The Drug and Alcohol Education programme at our school reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values.
For example:

1. Respect for self.
2. Respect for others.
3. Responsibility for their own actions
4. Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

How it is taught

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills to be safe and healthy, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values about drugs, as well as learn key information about the effects and risks of drugs and practice skills to stay safe if involved in a drug-related situation. Such activities include, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Pupils work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, mixing up so that they experience working with lots of different pupils in the class, as well as in friendship groups.
All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that pupils and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught by the class teacher and sometimes involves other professionals.

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 authorized 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 circumstances when some legal drugs are authorized for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

Medicines
In most cases, staff do not administer medicines at school to pupils unless it would be detrimental to health or attendance not to administer and only with parental written consent. Details about managing medicines can be found in our policy on supporting pupils with medical needs. The decision to allow pupils to self-administer medicines rests with the Headteacher.
Schools are allowed to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. It is only for children who have written parental consent, who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. Please see our school's policy 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' for using the emergency inhaler as part of our supporting pupils with medical conditions policy.

Asthma inhalers, held in school with written parental consent, are kept secure with safe and easy access for school staff authorised to administer. Children's personal inhalers are taken on all off-site visits and held by the accompanying school staff.
Staff are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect pupils in their class.
The School Nurse will be informed of any children attending the school with medical conditions. Advice will be sought on ensuring they have an appropriate care plan and that school staff are trained to administer any medication required for the day to day management of their condition in school or during a medical emergency.

Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)
Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals e.g. for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy.
In the event of a child or adult who is required to use medical sharps to address the management of their health condition (e.g. insulin or gluco blood testing) a medical sharps disposal bin will be provided. Advice will be sought from the School Nurse regarding the management of the sharps and sharps bin on the school site.

Alcohol
Alcohol is unauthorised at school during staff social events and therefore not allowed on school premises.

Smoking policy
We are a smoke free school and staff, parents, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises or in sight of the school. Smoke free signage is prominent around our school grounds.

E-cigarettes *(sometimes known as nicotine vaporisers)*
Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation we do not allowing the use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school premises.

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 Premises Manager finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking.

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

- The Headteacher & Operational DSL 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.
- Permanent exclusion will not be the automatic response and will only be used in the most serious cases and as a final resort
- 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.

Possible responses might be:

➢ Support and counselling
If a pupil has a concern about drugs or has been involved in a drug related incident or is themselves at risk of drug misuse, we will seek support from our Social Services and if appropriate refer to a specialist agency

➢ Sanctions
Where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the behaviour policy. In the unlikely event of an incident involving illegal drugs, permanent exclusion will be considered and used if needed

Procedures for managing incidents

Reporting a drug-related incident
All drug-related incidents are reported to the Headteacher & Operational DSL

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform Police immediately of any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters, although we will contact Trading Standards or the Police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol and solvents to under age students, from local shops.

Recording the drug-related incident
All drug-related incidents are recorded on CPOMs. All written notes are given to the Headteacher & Operational DSL and are kept confidential in the DSL office.
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 preferably the Headteacher & DSL
- 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 Headteacher & DSL.
- the pupil will be taken to the school office and the Headteacher & DSL or Assistant 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 a Headteacher who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. A Headteacher & DSL are the only persons 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 pupils' bags/trays 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-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or Assistant Head & DSL 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/staff
Our school's rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers/staff 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 students 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 signpost 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 our local police officer 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.

Reviewing the policy
This policy is reviewed every three years.
If an incident should occur, the policy is reviewed in the light of that incident.

The review will include feedback from the evaluations of drug education, included in the annual review of PSHE and Citizenship.

Disseminating the policy
The policy is on the Schools website and a copy can be requested from the school office.