



## **POLICY FOR DRUG EDUCATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

<b>Policy Adoption and Revision Details</b>			
<b>Policy Adoption:</b>	<b>January 2024</b>		<b>Version 1</b>
<b>Review</b>	<b>January 2025</b>		

This policy sets out our school's approach to drug education and how the school will respond to drug related incidents within the responsibilities of the school. This policy works alongside other policies including Health and Safety, Safeguarding, the Administration of Medicines and Behaviour.

### **To whom does the policy apply?**

This policy is aimed at all staff, pupils and parents/carers, governors and agencies working within our school environment. Any breaches of this policy will be dealt with by the Governing Body and/or the Headteacher. The policy also applies to pupils and staff who are participating in off-site activities including all educational visits.

### **What is the definition of a drug in this context?**

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) and covers:

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

### **What is the purpose of this policy?**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Clearly set out the school's responsibilities and legal requirements
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all stakeholders including the wider community
- Reinforce the school's approach to safeguarding our pupils and all school users
- Provide guidance on effectively developing, implementing and monitoring the school's drug education programme
- Ensure that staff are confident in the consistent management of drugs and drug-related incidents which occur on school property
- Ensure that the school's drug education programme reflects the aims and values of the school and its Governing Body

### **What does our drugs education programme look like?**

Our drug education objectives are:

- To increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects
- To understand the risks involved with drug-taking
- To promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles and making informed decisions about how they wish to live their lives
- To develop pupils' confidence in resisting peer pressure from others including from social media
- To highlight support mechanisms that are available to support

Through careful planning, staff training and monitoring, the teaching of drug education will be incorporated into the PSHE curriculum in the following ways:

### **Year 5**

In Year 5, pupils are introduced to medicines and vaccines as substances that can help us when used safely, while beginning to understand the potential risks of misuse. Lessons promote responsible choices, personal safety and resilience, helping pupils recognise safe and unsafe substances. Pupils also begin to explore how positive friendships and strong decision-making skills can help them resist peer pressure and avoid risky behaviours.

### **Year 6**

In Year 6, drug education builds on this foundation with a focus on the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body and mind. Pupils learn about drug use and the law, the importance of making responsible choices, and how peer influence and media messages can glamorise risky behaviours. They develop the confidence to say no, manage pressure from others and make informed decisions that protect their wellbeing as they prepare for the transition to secondary school.

### **Year 7**

In Year 7, pupils explore the dangers of alcohol, nicotine and smoking, considering how these substances can impact health and lifestyle. Lessons focus on recognising and resisting peer pressure, understanding the consequences of experimentation, and identifying strategies to make safe, independent choices. Pupils also learn how substance misuse can increase vulnerability and lead to unsafe or antisocial behaviour.

### **Year 8**

In Year 8, pupils study substance misuse in greater depth, including alcohol, vaping, energy drinks and other drugs. They examine addiction, drug classifications and the law, exploring both the short and long-term effects of substance use. Pupils learn how to manage social influences, avoid high risk situations and seek help for themselves or others when needed. These lessons empower pupils to make safe, responsible and informed choices as they move towards greater independence and maturity.

### **Links to other policies and curriculum areas:**

- Science curriculum
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety
- Ant-bullying Policy

### **How do we manage drugs in school?**

Where illegal drugs/controlled or unauthorised drugs are confiscated or found in school or within the school's boundaries, the drugs may be:

- Disposed of in the presence of a second adult witness (a record will be kept)
- Handed to the police
- Where it is safe and appropriate to do so, and in the case of tobacco or alcohol, parents may have goods returned to them

All incidents involving the discovery of drugs at school should be reported to the headteacher and guidelines will be followed when handling any substances.

In the event that a situation occurs off site e.g. during a residential trip, the most senior member of staff present should follow procedures and report back, as soon as possible, to the headteacher.

### **How do we manage authorised drugs?**

- Pupils who either require regular or periodic drugs should have permission from a parent/carer and/or a medical professional
- Medicines should be kept in a central, secure place – only accessible to authorised personnel
- Drugs should be clearly labelled and dated whether stored on site or taken off site
- Records should be kept of all administrations of prescription drugs
- Where drugs have past their expiry date, communication should take place between school and home

### **Working with parents and school partners**

The school values the support given to us from our parents/carers as well as other outside agencies and we encourage them to help us in our efforts at preventing drug misuse. Parents/carers are welcome to access this Policy and are encouraged to discuss with school any concerns that they may have.

The Governing Body at our school are encouraged to take an active role in the reviewing process of all policies including the Policy for Drug Education and the Management of Drug Related Incidents.