

**Walbottle Village Primary School  
Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy**



## **CONTEXT**

Drug Education forms a part of the statutory order for National Curriculum Science and will be provided in the broader context of PSHE. This provision will be supported by the school's commitment to a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances) by pupils, staff or visitors, or the illegal supply of these substances is condoned.

We have also addressed drugs issues as they effect the whole school in the areas identified within the National Healthy Standard.

We believe that drug education is a vital part of the personal, social and health education of every pupil. Drug education is more than just information, it is important that children have the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to make positive choices in a drug using world.

## **DEFINITIONS AND BOUNDARIES**

This policy encompasses all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), all illegal drugs, volatile substances and unauthorised over the counter medicines.

The policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but on all school visits, trips and residentials, including those made outside of normal school hours. It will also be upheld on all school buses and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

It has been written in line with the recommendations made in the Drugs: Guidance for School (Dfes 0092/2004).

## **AIMS**

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs

increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse

raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs

explore attitudes towards drug use and misuse

develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions

identify sources of personal support

raise young peoples self esteem

enable children to recognise a broad range of strategies to maintain emotional and physical health.

To equip young people with the skills and confidence to deal with pressures from peers and society.

To link drugs education in school with the Science and PSHE curriculum within the 3 core themes of health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world..

## **CONTENT**

Drug Education is taught at an appropriate level throughout each key stage beginning with the foundation curriculum through year 6, and is based on DFES Drugs: Guidance for Schools 2004.

We also feel that our ethos at school supports our broad aim to support children's emotional and physical health in positive ways.

## **THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

The school is committed to promoting a healthy and supportive environment for the benefit of pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and visitors. A non-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. The policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises. All incidents of smoking will be challenged, (refer also to smoking policy)

Similarly, the misuse of drugs (including legal substances such as alcohol) by pupils, staff or visitors is prohibited within the stated school boundaries.

## **STORAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES**

Medicines will be administered by a first aider (refer to Managing Medicines Policy). Where necessary, school staff will receive training on specific medical conditions.

Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in either the refrigerator or the secure cupboard in the support staff room.

## **DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

The school will consider each incident individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community. Any sanctions enforced will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions; and will reflect the seriousness of the incident. After immediate medical needs have been addressed, the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved. We recognise that any pupil misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency. All staff are familiar with the recommended procedures identified in the flow chart, "Situations involving drugs without medical authority". (Appendix 2)

## **POLICE**

In the event of an incident occurring within the school ground the Police Protocols found in Appendix B at the end of this policy will be followed.

Our linked Police can be contacted at Etal Lane Police Station, Newcastle upon Tyne Tel 0191 2146555

## **PARENTS & PUPILS**

Parents and pupils, through the school council, have been made aware of the school's policy. If young people are under the influence of drugs in school we will firstly ensure their safety and undertake any emergency measures before any action is taken. We will follow the Police Protocols in any event supplied as an appendix at the end of this policy.

If parents are under the influence of drugs in school then Police Protocols will again be followed.

If it is suspected that members of the community are supplying drugs on school property the Police Protocols will again be followed.

## **SUPPORT**

We will provide pupil and parents with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drug issues.

Support for families and pupils involved in drugs, can be found via the Civic Centre, the School Nurse or Social Services

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum.

## **RESPONDING TO THE MEDIA**

As drug-related incidents are likely to generate media interest, all members of staff have been advised not to respond to journalists' questions, but to refer journalists to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher will make a considered response after seeking assistance from the local Authority Press Office.

## **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the school of a Healthy School's Leader, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy.

The Healthy School's Leader in our school is Mrs Alison Oliver.

Their responsibilities include:

- Overall charge of the process which forms and reviews the drugs policy.
- Responsibility for implementing monitoring systems.
- Responsibility for ensuring evaluation takes place and that informs policy review.
- Ensuring coordination and coherence of drugs education and the management of drug related incidents.
- Initiating and coordinating responses to any unplanned situation involving drugs.
- Coordinating links with external agencies.

## **STAFF SUPPORT & TRAINING**

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained. It is important that staff feel adequately trained to deliver drugs education and to implement this policy. We will ensure that staff are regularly consulted as to their training needs and training is provided as appropriate to keep abreast of developments in relation to drugs and drug issues.

## **MONITORING & EVALUATION**

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated annually. Any suggested amendments will be taken into consideration and adopted where appropriate.

March 2025

Appendix A

The Misuse of Drugs Act – 1971

CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C
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*Heroin, Methadone*

*Opium*

*L.S.D.*

*Ecstasy*

*Any form of Magic Mushrooms*

*Any Class B drug which is injected*

*Cannabis Oil / skunk*

*Crack/Cocaine*

*Amphetamines (Speed)*

*Barbiturates*

*Codeine*

*Cannabis (if possessed /supplied by a minor)*

*Mild Amphetamines*

*Tranquillisers (see below)*

*DF 118*

*Cannabis Resin / Grass*

Maximum Penalties

Possession – 7 years + fine

Trafficking – Life + fine

Maximum Penalties

Possession – 5 years + fine

Trafficking – 14 years + fine

Maximum Penalties

Possession – 2 years + fine

Trafficking – 5 years + fine

These penalties are in Crown Courts. In Magistrates Courts, the maximum sentence is 6 months imprisonment and a £2000 fine. The actual sentence someone gets will depend also upon the amount of the drug involved, their previous criminal record, their circumstances (e.g. a single parent) and the attitude of the magistrate/judge.

*Further information – Alcohol, solvents, cigarettes and poppers are not covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971*

*Magic Mushrooms – It is not illegal to eat them but it is illegal to make them into a preparation such as tea or dry them out.*

Tranquilizers – It is not illegal to use them without prescription but it is illegal to give/sell them to other people for non-medical use. In this case, they are considered as Class C drugs.

## Appendix B

### **DRUGS POLICY**

#### RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

These guidelines relate primarily to police response to substance misuse incidents in school and in particular drugs. The document has been designed to support school drugs policies in line with DFES Guidelines 2003.

#### Over-riding Principles

Police response to substance misuse incidents should:  
be consistent across the Force and  
be based on clear and accessible guidelines available to police officers and educationalists.

Management of schools is the responsibility of the Head, Governors and the Local Authority. Police response should compliment management responsibility to pupils but should not conflict with the police responsibility to investigate offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Decisions concerning young people who are involved in substance misuse incidents at schools are better made in partnership between police and schools rather than in isolation.

School managers (Head teachers, Governors, LA) will be expected to have an up to date Substance Misuse/Drug Incident Policy.

Guidelines to Police Involvement in Drug Related Incidents in Schools.

#### Drugs Definitions

Drug Strategies in Schools and Supportive Legislation

Police Response to a Drug Related Incident in School

Types of Incidents and Suggested Procedures

Aide Memoir for Police Officers

Drugs Identification Guide

# **March 2025**