

NORMANDY VILLAGE SCHOOL
The Continual Pursuit of Excellence



DRUGS AND
ALCOHOL
POLICY

REVIEW: EVERY TWO YEARS

LAST REVIEW DATE: 2024

Normandy Village School **Drugs and Alcohol Policy**

This is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Drugs and Alcohol Education. It was developed through a process of consultation between Staff and Governors and Trustees.

This policy reflects the guidance of national bodies i.e. DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies.

Aims:

The overall aim of drug education in school is to equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to enable them to be able to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

Objectives:

- to provide accurate information about drugs and the law relating to them.
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs.
- to provide opportunities to examine attitudes and values to drug use.
- to promote the development of personal and social skills relating to health behaviour and the opportunity to practise them.
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Safeguarding

- Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school and other local services.

Definition of terms:

- Drug – This document uses the term to refer to any psychotropic substance: all legal drugs including alcohol and tobacco, all illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over the counter and prescription medicines.
- Drug use – The consumption of any drug. All drug use, including medicinal use, carries the potential for harm.
- Drug misuse – Drug taking through which an alteration in mental state may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.
- Drug abuse – Drug taking which harms health or functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

Drug and Alcohol Education within the Curriculum

Drug and Alcohol Education is provided within a programme of P.S.H.E. (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) where wider issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility can be addressed and where drug misuse and prevention is but one component. Specific drug related information is also provided within the statutory science curriculum (See Science Policy).

Drug and alcohol education is taught within the curriculum at Normandy Village School during PSHE. In Year 4, pupils become aware of commonly available substances and drugs that are legal and illegal and can describe some of the effects and risks of these. By Year 6 they can make judgements and decisions and can list some ways of resisting negative peer pressure around issues affecting their health and wellbeing as laid out in the Ofsted Inspection Framework.

The school acknowledges that a positive, health promoting ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in doing so helps to build self-esteem and self-image which may help a pupil to cope more effectively in drug related situations. They understand these situations affect emotional health and well-being.

Visiting Speakers

Visiting speakers from the local community make a valuable contribution to the programme. Their input is carefully planned to fit into and complement the curriculum.

Teaching and Learning Methods

In keeping with the school's approach to P.S.H.E., a variety of teaching and learning methods are used which are appropriate to the topic and needs of the pupils, appealing to different learning styles – visual, auditory and kinaesthetic. (See Teaching and Learning Policy)

These strategies enable pupils to:

- place new learning in the context of previous experience.
- explore currently held personal and cultural beliefs and values in the context of new learning.
- apply new learning to other situations.
- relate new knowledge to current behaviour, to be able to make and act on informed choices.
- actively consider the implications of the learning for themselves, society and the environment.

Monitoring and evaluation

The PSHE team will monitor the delivery of the curriculum through observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent provision.

Evaluation of the curriculum's effectiveness will be conducted based on teacher evaluation, staff meetings to review and share experience and assessment of pupil learning objectives/outcomes through work sampling and the Governors' Audit through the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The school's position is as follows:

- **Tobacco**
The school operates a no smoking policy throughout the building and grounds. This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents, and visitors.
- **Alcohol**
The possession and use of alcohol on school premises during the workday is prohibited for all members of the school community. (This includes alcoholic soft drinks). Alcohol is not consumed at any function onsite by staff.
Alcohol should not be consumed at any function where pupils are present (unless parents are present)
- **Solvents**
The school recognises that many ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed.
- **Medication: over the counter and prescribed drugs**
Where it is not possible for parents to administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours, pupils should bring in a written request / signed request form from parents / carers and hand the medication into the school office. The school dispenses paracetamol only with parental consent. All medicine is kept in the office including inhalers, piriton etc and a list of children requiring medicine is regularly updated to ensure medicines still required or in date.
Asthma reliever inhalers are kept in class for easy and immediate access (staff are made aware whom this applies to monitor proper use.)
Spare inhalers are kept in the medical room.

Staff may also administer medicines on trips/ residential trips where a parent has signed a written request to do so. Any such instance should be recorded noting dosage and time according to written instructions from parent.

- **Epipens**

A list of those children who may require these upon the onset of an allergic reaction is kept in the office together with medication. Staff have been trained in the administering of the medication and have signed the appropriate documentation.

School trips

The school's policy on drugs applies to all school excursions, trips and residential.

Responding to drug related incidents

The school seeks to work closely with families and support agencies in these circumstances. The school will consider each incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. It will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. The school seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, the other school members and the local community. Any incidents are recorded on CPOMS.

The range of responses includes:

1. Referral to outside agencies for counselling treatment
2. Case references to discuss the options carefully before devising action plans to enable pupils to remain in school and receive appropriate help.
3. Intensive in-school programmes (DfEE guidance Social inclusion and the use of pastoral support programmes ELSA)

The management of drug related incidents is co-ordinated by the Headteacher and SLT.

Emergency situations

Safeguarding

Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school and other local services.

If a pupil is deemed to be in danger because of drug misuse e.g., collapsed, unconscious, the following course of action should be taken:

- Provide emergency aid to pupil as appropriate with first aider
- Call an ambulance and briefly outline the cause of the emergency.
- Notify Headteacher /SLT.
- Notify the pupil's parents.
- Remove, in the presence of an adult witness, any suspicious substances/equipment and retain in case they are required by ambulance staff
- Record the incident in the school's medical book
- Record the incident on CPOMS

Intoxication

- Remove the pupil to a quiet room and ensure there is a member of staff present.
- The first aider will be called, and further medical help summoned if necessary.
- Parents will be informed and called to the school to collect the pupil and advised to visit their GP
- The incident will be recorded in the medical book.
- Record the incident on CPOMS

Discovery / observation

- If the substance is, or is suspected of being, illegal, the Headteacher will call the local police to help with the identification of the substance and give appropriate police involvement.
- The governing body of the school will subsequently be informed.
- Parents will be informed and called to the school to discuss.

Drug / substance abusing parents

The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose drug use (legal and \ or illegal) is problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally. Key staff involved in such support have received guidance (and training) in this area. Any incidents to safeguard the child will be recorded on CPOMs and referred appropriately.

(See also the Child Protection Policy).