



# Inspire Education Trust

Together we achieve, individually we grow

## Drug Education Policy - Primary

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**Policy Date:** November 2024

**Review Date:** November 2027

## Document History

Version	Status		Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1			Nov 21	Donna O'Brien	Comment from DfE RSHE guidance added see highlighted green - pg4
V2			Nov 24	Gillian Bowser	Additional information included on vaping

## 1. 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 has overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services.

The Local Governing Body liaises with the school about curriculum and policy.

## 2. Links to other policies

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

## 3. 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, **vapes** 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.

## 4. 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, well being 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

## 5. 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

## 6. 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. **There is a focus on mental wellbeing, including a recognition that mental wellbeing and physical health are linked. This includes teaching about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, including drug misuse.**

This Jigsaw 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.

### Staff training

The Trust recognises that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff will receive child protection and safeguarding training in identifying the signs that a pupil may be at risk, experiencing harm or is struggling upon induction and this will be refreshed **annually**. Staff will also receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

All staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves or is in a family circumstance presenting challenges that includes drug and alcohol misuse.

## Jigsaw Content

The grid below shows specific Drug and Alcohol Education learning intentions for each year group in the 'Healthy Me' Puzzle.

Year Group	Piece Number and Name	Learning Intentions 'Pupils will be able to...'
2	Piece 3 Medicine Safety	understand how medicines work in my body and how important it is to use them safely  feel positive about caring for my body and keeping it healthy
3	Piece 3 What Do I Know About Drugs?	tell you my knowledge and attitude towards drugs  identify how I feel towards drugs
4	Piece 3 Smoking	understand the facts about smoking and its effects on health, and also some of the reasons some people start to smoke  recognise negative feelings in peer pressure situations (such as embarrassment, shame, inadequacy and guilt)  know how to act assertively to resist pressure from myself and others
	Piece 4 Alcohol	understand the facts about alcohol and its effects on health, particularly the liver, and also some of the reasons some people drink alcohol  recognise negative feelings in peer pressure situations (such as embarrassment, shame, inadequacy and guilt)  know how to act assertively to resist pressure from myself and others
5	Piece 1 Smoking	know the health risks of smoking and can tell you how tobacco affects the lungs, liver and heart  make an informed decision about whether or not I choose to smoke and know how to resist pressure
	Piece 2 Alcohol	know some of the risks with misusing alcohol, including anti-social behaviour, and how it affects the liver and heart  make an informed decision about whether or not I choose to drink alcohol and know how to resist pressure
6	Piece 2 Drugs	know about different types of drugs and their uses and their effects on the body particularly the liver and heart  be motivated to find ways to be happy and cope with life's situations without using drugs

	Piece 3 Exploitation	understand that some people can be exploited and made to do things that are against the law  suggest ways that someone who is being exploited can help themselves
	Piece 6 Managing stress and pressure	recognise stress and the triggers that cause this and I understand how stress can cause drug and alcohol misuse  use different strategies to manage stress and pressure

### How it is taught (including involving outside contributors)

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 role play, 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 the school nurse or other professionals.

## 7. 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.

#### (i) 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 a **Headteacher or their absence, a Deputy 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 protocol 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.

#### ***(ii) 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 whom 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.

#### ***(iii) Alcohol***

**Alcohol is not authorised for consumption on school sites.**

### **8. 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.

We display information about giving up smoking on displays around the school and on parent and staff notice boards.

#### ***E-cigarettes (sometimes known as nicotine vaporisers / vapes )***

Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation we do not allow the use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school premises and strongly discourage parents using them when collecting their children from school.

## 9. 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 **or vapes** 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 **site staff** finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking **or using vapes**.

### *School responses to drug-related incidents*

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

- The Headteacher 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 **Relational** 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:

#### (i) 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 **Children's Social Care** and if appropriate refer to a specialist agency.

#### (ii) 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 **relational** 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.

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform Police immediately 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, vapes, alcohol and solvents to under age students, from local shops.

### *Recording the drug-related incident*

All drug-related incidents are recorded on CPOMs. The form is given to the Headteacher and kept confidential in the school 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 Co-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 **Headteacher and / or Deputy Headteacher**.
- the pupil will be taken to the school office and the **Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher** 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.
- **School will inform the CEO & DCEO of the Trust**

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 or Deputy** who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. A Headteacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then a 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 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 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.

### **Child criminal exploitation (CCE)**

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or threats of violence. CCE can include children being coerced into moving, storing and selling drugs across the country (known as county lines).

Staff will be aware of the indicators that may suggest a pupil is being criminally exploited through involvement in county lines, including where pupils:

- Have gone missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their harm.
- Have been a victim or perpetrator of serious violence, e.g. knife crime.
- Have been involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs.
- Are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection.
- Are found in accommodation that they have no connection with.
- Owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters.
- Have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

Staff will be made aware of the following potential indicators of CCE for pupils:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education

Staff members will be aware that illegal drug use or possession by pupils may indicate that they are victims of exploitation, even if it appears that illegal activity regarding drugs is something to which

they have consented. The DSL will use their professional judgement to consider CCE as an explanation for a pupil's drug-related behaviour before pursuing other support and disciplinary procedures, rather than making assumptions about the pupil's intentions.

Staff will be alert to the indicators above and all concerns relating to CCE will be managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

#### **10. 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.

#### **11. 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.

#### **12. 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.

#### **13. 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.

#### **14. Disseminating the policy**

The policy is on the Trust's website and a copy can be requested from the school office.

Reviewed by:	Gillian Bowser	November 2024
Senior Lead Review:	Rob Darling	November 2024
Next Review Date:		November 2027
Approved by CEO:		20 November 2024

Signed:



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Lois Whitehouse  
CEO