



Arnold Mill Primary School Drug Education Policy 2026-28

Approved by:	S&P Committee
Last Review Date:	May 2026
Next Review Date	May 2028

Arnold Mill Primary and Nursery School Drug Education Policy

Introduction

Arnold Mill Primary School is committed to investing in our pupil's health and wellbeing and by doing this we assist the process of raising the pupil's achievements.

Drug Education is delivered as part of the wider PSHE and statutory Relationships Education and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum. Drug Education forms part of the school's safeguarding curriculum. It supports pupils to understand risks, make safe choices and know how to seek help if they are worried about themselves or others.

Our school uses the term 'drug' to include alcohol, tobacco, medicines, vapes, energy drinks, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents. The school policy provides a clear picture of our approach to drug education and the management of drug-related incidents and support for pupils who have difficulties. It provides a secure framework within which school staff can work. We will ensure a balanced approach and promote healthy lifestyles. This will be delivered within the context of PSHE/SCARF programme, science curriculum, DAaRT (Previously called DARE) for Year 5 + 6 and the schools' equal opportunities policy. This policy takes account of relevant guidance from the Department for Education, including *Drugs: Advice for Schools* and statutory guidance for Relationships Education and Health Education.

Aims

Drug Education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating to their own and others' actions. - *Drugs: Advice for Schools*

The overall aims of the drug education programme are to:

- Develop a range of skills to enable children to make their own, informed decisions about drugs.
- Develop rules for, and ways of, keeping them safe.
- Increase knowledge and understanding about legal/illegal drugs and how these relate to personal health.
- Be part of a whole school approach through the PSHE/SCARF curriculum.
- Help pupils identify effective and trustworthy sources of help and support.
- To understand risks and the consequences associated.
- Develop self-confidence and assertiveness.
- To explore a range of views, clarify attitudes and challenge stereotypes.
- Know how and where to seek help for themselves or others.
- Understand how to stay safe in situations involving drugs or substances.

Drugs Education Programme

Drugs Education is an entitlement for every pupil. Content is carefully planned to be age-appropriate and builds progressively from Early Years through to Year 6. It is delivered in each school year in

the manner appropriate to the age and development of children through PSHE/SEAL, Science, Circle time and other subject areas when and where appropriate. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community. A variety of resources are used including: On Track KS1 and KS2 resources, Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire PSHE consultancy equipment. Year 5 will also be taught about drugs resistance through the DAaRT Programme (formally called DARE). This is an 11 week programme that will be delivered by class teachers and TAs.

The DAaRT Programme of Study includes the following topics:

- Illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, solvents, vapes (including health impacts and the influence of peer pressure) and prescription drugs.
- Hate crime covering difference, prejudice and respect
- Knife crime includes the law, safety and risks and consequences (links here to bottom of page subjects)
- Pupils will also explore how media, advertising and peer influence can affect choices about substances.

The overarching themes are:

- Responsibility
- Stress
- Confident communication
- Resistance strategies
- Pressure and peer pressure
- Becoming a good citizen
- Where to get help

Teaching and Learning

Drug Education shares the features of well-taught lessons in any subject area. It builds on what learners already know; develops understanding through enquiry and problem solving; makes learning enjoyable and challenging and makes children partners in their own learning.

Drug Education at Arnold Mill Primary School is delivered in an interactive, thought-provoking and interesting manner using a variety of teaching methods and approaches. Teachers establish clear ground rules to ensure a safe, respectful and supportive environment for discussion where children's genuine questions and concerns can be sensitively addressed. Ground rules that are set cover issues such as teachers' and pupils' right to privacy and respect, and the boundaries of discussion. Pupils and teachers are discouraged from revealing any personal information. Distancing techniques using third

person case studies, role-play and de-personalised discussions and anonymous question boxes are strategies used by staff.

Managing incidents

Other than the legitimate use of medicines it is against the school rules for children to bring any other drugs onto the school site. A drug related incident at this school is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine or use of tobacco, vapes and alcohol by children. Sometimes it might involve drug related incidents with parents.

The school believes it is in the best interests of all concerned to inform parents/carers of any reported drug related incidents. The exception would be where the school believes the child would be at serious risk from the parent/carer. As in all circumstances where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect the child protection procedures will be applied. In these situations the teacher will consult the school's Child Protection Officer (see Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy). The school will take full account of the circumstances when considering the role and involvement of the police. However, if illegal drugs are found on the school premises the local police will be informed immediately.

The school will respond to incidents in a consistent and proportionate way, considering the age of the pupil, the circumstances and the need for education, support and safeguarding. We will always prioritise education and support for pupils involved in incidents, alongside any appropriate sanctions.

Disposal of equipment

Injecting equipment such as needles, syringes, spoons or filters may carry blood borne viruses and need to be handled with extreme caution. If staff find discarded injecting equipment, they will follow the following procedure:

- Communicate the incident with the school H & S Officer.
- Avoid handling the syringe wherever possible.
- Where possible sweep up the equipment onto a dustpan or piece of card.
- If staff have to pick up the syringe, they are advised to avoid the needle and handle by the barrel, holding it so the needle points away from their body. Place any paraphernalia into a sharps container or rigid container to be clearly labelled such as a screw top jar or a drinks can.
- If staff should sustain accidental injury from such an implement, seek medical attention immediately and complete an accident report.

Parental involvement

We value the important role parents/carers play within our school community and are committed to ensuring they are consulted and informed about the Drug Education curriculum via the website/termly overviews **and may view resources on request**. The school works in partnership with families to support pupils' understanding.

Governor involvement

Our school has a named governor responsible for Drugs Education. All governors are consulted about the Drug Education provision and policy and are kept up to date at Governor's meetings.

Administration and storage of medicine

All members of staff at Arnold Mill Primary School are committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our pupils. Medication will only be administered with a written request from parents/carers. All medication is stored in the refrigerator or secure cupboard in the school's first aid room.

Role of staff

The school supports all teaching and supporting staff in accessing drug related training. Training will also be provided in house via staff meetings, INSET, parents' meetings and governors meetings. We believe that access to good quality training and information helps build teachers confidence in delivering drugs education.

Outside agencies

Inputs from outside agencies are jointly planned with those concerned, ensuring a consistent approach with the school ethos. We also ensure their delivery and messages match with our standards of good practice.

Pastoral support

The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil welfare seriously. All staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring and sensitive pastoral support for pupils in a number of ways. Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice. Where appropriate, pupils are referred to the school nurse and/or outside helping agencies. School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures are made. **Pupils are reminded regularly of trusted adults they can speak to both in school and at home.**

Monitoring and reviewing

Drug Education is reviewed and evaluated as part of school practice by the staff and the children to ascertain what has been learnt and to establish how future work may become more effective. **This includes evaluating pupils' knowledge, understanding and confidence in making safe choices.** This policy is reviewed every two years **or after any significant guidance updates.**