



Black Firs Primary School
Drugs policy

January 2025

Our vision and aims

At Black Firs Primary School our vision is for every child and every adult to experience life in all its fullness *so that every child can become their own superhero*. We do this through ensuring a safe environment in our school, promoting respect for ourselves and all others and engendering a sense of community and responsibility in all.

We understand that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. The DfE advises all schools to have an up-to-date Drugs Policy.

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 and how it is taught;
- give guidance to teachers, support staff, parents and visitors about drug education.

Staff responsible for drugs issues

The PSHE Curriculum Leader is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff and liaising with external agencies to support the curriculum.

The Headteacher is responsible for developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy, managing drug-related incidents and liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the PSHE and Citizenship Curriculum Statement and the following related policies: Health and Safety, Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying, Medical Conditions, Safeguarding and Child Protection and Equalities documents.

The Definition of Drugs

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: “a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”.

This refers to both legal and illegal drugs:

- Illegal drugs* (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS – formerly known as ‘legal highs’), GHB, anabolic steroids and khat
- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18 year olds including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents)
- Drugs that are legal to use and buy such as poppers, caffeine drinks
- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines

*Nitrous Oxide is not illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act but is illegal to produce, supply, sell or import for human consumptions under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

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.

Development of the policy

This policy was drafted by the PSHE curriculum leader and Headteacher, following national guidance.

We have taken account of key national and local guidance including:

Programme of Study produced by PSHE Association (January 2020)

DfE Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education Statutory Guidance (June 2020)

We have also used Camden Example Primary School Drugs Policy (September 2020)

Drug education

Drug education covers the teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco (including e-cigarettes and shisha) and is a key part of preventing drug misuse and promoting the health and well-being of young people.

Aims of drug education

- to give pupils age-appropriate and accurate information about the effects and risks of substances (including substances in the home, and alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances and illegal drugs) - help pupils to develop the skills and attitudes to keep safe, manage situations and make healthy and responsible decisions

To achieve this, our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects, risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings;
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs;
- develop skills to keep safe and manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others;
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences.

Drug education curriculum

Where is it taught in the curriculum?

Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco is taught mainly through PSHE and citizenship and in Science where it is required in the National Curriculum.

What is taught?

The content reflects

- statutory Health Education
By the end of primary school, pupils should know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking
- statutory Science
Year 6 programme of study: *Pupils should be taught to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function*
Year 6 non-statutory guidance: *Pupils should learn how to keep their bodies healthy and how their bodies might be damaged – including how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body. Pupils might work scientifically by: exploring the work of scientists and scientific research about the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle and health.*

Drug education in our PSHE and citizenship curriculum

Key Stage 1 focuses on learning

-that household products (including medicines) can be harmful if not used correctly (Y1)

-about things that people can put into their body or on their skin; how these can affect how people feel (Y1) -that medicines, including immunisations and vaccinations and medication for allergies, can help to keep people healthy (Y2)

Key Stage 2 focuses on learning

- about the importance of taking medicines correctly and using household products safely (Y4)
- how medicines, when used responsibly, contribute to health (Y4)
- about the risks and effects of legal drugs common to everyday life (e.g. cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vaping, alcohol and medicines) and their impact on health; recognise that drug use can become a habit which can be difficult to break (Y6)
- to recognise that there are laws surrounding the use of legal drugs and that some drugs are illegal to own, use and give to others (Y6)
- about why people choose to use or not use drugs (including nicotine, alcohol and medicines) (Y6)
- about the mixed messages in the media about drugs, including alcohol and smoking/vaping (Y6)
- about the organisations that can support people concerning alcohol, tobacco and nicotine or other drug use; people they can talk to if they have concerns (Y6)

How is pupils' learning assessed?

Pupils' progress in drug education is assessed as part of PSHE and citizenship assessment and Science assessment. Pupils' knowledge, attitudes and skills are assessed through a range of methods including end of topic self-assessment and teacher assessment. Pupils' attainment in PSHE and citizenship and in Science is reported to parents in end of year reports.

How is drug education monitored and evaluated?

Monitoring and evaluation help to plan future lessons and to review the teaching programme and improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The PSHE curriculum leader is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. A range of methods are used including lesson visits/learning walks, looking at pupils' work and speaking with pupils and teachers. Teachers use the scheme of work to monitor what they are covering and record whether they make changes.

Training and support for staff

All staff who teach drug education participate in training and professional development through a range of activities including staff INSET, local authority and trust training, team teaching and observing other teachers. We take advantage of the support, advice and training provided by our Trust Health and Well-being Team. Information and teaching strategies and resources gained from staff attending external training are shared with other staff through staff meetings and INSET. The PSHE curriculum leaders has opportunities to develop their skills in planning and supporting drug education through support from our Trust and eCP Health and Well-being Teams.

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 authorised legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers: on or near the school premises, within and outside the school day and during term time or holiday periods, on school visits, school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents, governors and those working in and visiting the school.

Management of authorised drugs

The school has agreed that there are circumstances when some legal drugs are authorised for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

Medication

Guidance of the administration of medication at school is set out in the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy.

Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals are set out in the Health and Safety policy.

Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parents' events and staff/governor social events. Staff accompanying pupils on field trips or school journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils.

Smoking policy

This is a no smoking school and smoking (including use of e-cigarettes) is not allowed anywhere on the premises. See our No Smoking Policy.

Management of a drug-related incident

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 in school; a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk; pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils; a pupil misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler; a pupil disclosing a concern about a family member who has a drug problem; a pupil giving medicines to another pupil; a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes at a local newsagents; the school keeper finding used syringes in the playground; a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking in Camden.

School responses to drug-related incidents

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

- The head teacher and deputy 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 exclusions 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 school's 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

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 of 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, alcohol or solvents to under-age pupils from local shops.

Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using an incident form. The form is given to the Headteacher and kept confidentially.

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

Qualified First Aid staff should be called immediately. The pupil will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school.

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 Headteacher will be 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

This section describes the action that will be taken 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 illegal (or 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 a witness
- the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the time and date 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 deputy head
- the pupil(s) involved will be taken to the school office and the headteacher or deputy head 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 pupil to do so
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and sanctions response including internal exclusion while investigations are carried out

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 pupils' 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 an item/substance, 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 who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. The Headteacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then the 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 to inform parents before or after a search or to seek their consent to search a child.

Teachers can search pupils' bags 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 any unusual item on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.

Disclosure

A disclosure is 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

The school's drugs policy applies 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.

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 Headteacher, who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Working with parents/carers

The school welcomes parents/carers who wish to share with us their concerns about drugs. We provide information to parents/carers, such as in this policy, about our drug education programme and support.

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 exceptional cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher, who is also the DSL, with the child's welfare a priority.

Police involvement

In most cases, a drug-related incident will be a school, rather than a police matter. However, the school will contact the local police station 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.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years by senior staff, governors and the PSHE curriculum leader, to ensure it is a reflection of current best practice and in line with local and national guidance and legislation. This review will take into account any feedback or review of our PSHE teaching and learning.

If an incident should occur, the policy will be reviewed in the light of that incident.