

Date: September 2025

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# Primrose Hill School Drug Education Policy



## **SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION POLICY**

Educating our school community about drugs is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to:

- Minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use.
- Delay the age of onset of first use.
- Reduce the harm caused by drugs.
- Enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

Our aim is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

### **The Importance of Drug Education**

Drug education is an essential aspect of the curriculum as it:

Increases pupils' knowledge and understanding, addressing misconceptions about:

- The short and long-term effects and risks of drugs.
- The rules and laws relating to drugs.
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families, and communities.
- The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers.
- The complex moral, social, emotional, and political issues surrounding drugs.

Develops pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:

- Assessing, avoiding, and managing risk.
- Communicating effectively.
- Resisting pressures.
- Finding information, help, and advice.
- Devising problem-solving and coping strategies.
- Developing self-awareness and self-esteem.

Enables pupils to explore their own and others' attitudes towards drugs, drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

### **Purpose of the School Drug Policy**

The school's drug policy aims to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others within the school community.

- Provide clear guidance for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies, and the wider community.
- Guide the development, implementation, and monitoring of the drug education programme.
- Ensure staff can manage drug-related incidents confidently and consistently.
- Ensure that responses to drug-related incidents align with the school's values and ethos.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the school's drug education programme and incident management.
- Support the school's role in contributing to local and national strategies.

This policy applies to the entire school community and the school premises at all times during the school day.

## Definition of a Drug

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as "a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave." In this policy, the term "drug" refers to:

- Legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and solvents/volatile substances.
- Medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
- Illegal substances.

## Understanding Drug Use and Misuse

- **Drug use** refers to drug-taking, such as consuming alcohol, taking medication, or using illegal drugs. Any drug use can lead to harm, whether through intoxication, breaking the law or school rules, or potential future health issues.
- **Drug misuse** refers to drug-taking (including legal drugs and medicines) that leads to social, psychological, physical, or legal problems. It may require specific interventions, including treatment.

## The School's Approach to Drugs

- Illegal drugs have no place in our school.
- Tobacco use is not permitted on school premises.
- Alcohol may be consumed at school events where explicitly permitted.
- Prescription medicines may be taken in school under the **Administering of Medication Policy**.

## Implementation of Drug Education

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing, resourcing, and maintaining the programme. The curriculum follows **LEA Healthy Schools Quality Standards** and reflects pupil views to ensure relevance. We aim to:

- Encourage discussion and debate.
- Use drama and interactive methods.
- Involve experienced visitors/guest speakers.
- Educate about the risks of drugs and reasons people use them.

Pupils with **Special Educational Needs (SEN)** receive tailored drug education to ensure accessibility and understanding. The programme is adapted to support their decision-making, safety awareness, and confidence in managing medicines responsibly.

## Curriculum Delivery

- **Key Stage 1:** Pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and making healthy choices.
- **Key Stage 2:** Pupils learn about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, and illegal drugs, alongside strategies for managing risky situations.

## Teaching and Learning Principles

- Providing an inclusive education with high expectations.
- Building on prior knowledge.
- Using real-life learning experiences.
- Matching teaching techniques to different learning styles.
- Encouraging active learning and pupil participation.

Circle Time will be a key teaching method, encouraging open discussions with opportunities for reflection.

## External Contributors

External contributors supporting drug education must:

- Understand the school's desired learning outcomes.
- Integrate their contribution into the school's programme.
- Be competent educators.
- Ensure content meets pupils' needs and aligns with school values.

## Confidentiality

While confidentiality is respected, staff must not promise complete secrecy. The school follows **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies**, ensuring disclosures are handled appropriately.

## Definition of a Drug Incident

Drug incidents include:

- Discovery of drugs or paraphernalia on school premises.
- Pupils demonstrating inappropriate knowledge or behaviour related to drugs.
- Pupils found in possession of drugs.
- Pupils supplying drugs to others.
- A pupil, parent/carers, or staff member appearing under the influence of drugs.
- Reports of drug sales or supply in the local area.
- Pupils disclosing drug misuse by themselves or others.

## Managing Drug-Related Incidents

- Each incident is treated seriously and individually.
- Responses balance sanctions, support, and education.
- A range of interventions, including external support, may be used.

## Searching and Confiscation

- Staff **must not** conduct personal searches but may request voluntary surrender of substances, witnessed by a second adult.
- If illegal drugs are suspected, the **police must be contacted**.
- The Headteacher/Deputy may search school property (e.g., pupils' trays) with consent.
- If consent is refused but there is strong reason to believe drugs are stored, the search may proceed.
- Personal property (e.g., bags) can only be searched with consent or police involvement.
- Parents/carers will be informed of any searches and outcomes.
- **Disposal of Drugs**
- Alcohol and tobacco found in school will be returned to parents unless this compromises safety.
- Volatile substances require safe disposal procedures.
- **Illegal drugs** must be reported to the police for appropriate disposal.

- Needles/syringes must be handled safely and disposed of with Local Authority guidance.

## **External Support**

The school works with external agencies, including:

- Local Authority Drug Support Services
- Social Care
- School's Family Support Worker
- Police and Health Professionals

## **Staff Training and Welfare**

- Ongoing training is provided to staff on drug education and incident management.
- Staff affected by substance-related issues are supported through appropriate policies.

## **Parental and Community Engagement**

- Parents are involved through information sessions, including visits to the **Health Bus**, a national charity.
- The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for liaising with parents, governors, and external agencies.

## **Policy Review**

The Governing Body oversees the policy's development and cyclical review. The policy aligns with the school's commitment to safeguarding, education, and well-being.