



Grove Vale Primary School

Drugs Policy November 2024

Approved by:

Date: November 2024

Last reviewed on: November 2021

**Next review due
by: November 2027**



Introduction

We recognise the increasing drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance. The term 'drug', throughout this document, includes medicines as well as tobacco, vaping, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse. Whilst some elements of PSHE education remains a non-statutory subject, section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework document states that: 'All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.' It goes on to note that: 'Schools should seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the national curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle. In spite of this flexibility, all schools have statutory duties to meet. As section 2.1 of the national curriculum framework states: 'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

-Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.

-Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'.

Schools also have statutory responsibilities in relation to promoting pupil wellbeing and pupil safeguarding (Children Act 2004) and community cohesion (Education Act 2006). PSHE education plays an important part in fulfilling all of the responsibilities. This policy applies to school premises, day trips, and residential visits.

Aims of the Policy

The aim of this Drugs Education Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors. A drugs education policy ensures that schools take a whole school approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The school provides drugs education as part of the PSHE Programme of Study and appropriate to our children's needs.

Drugs education:

- Enables pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and exploring their own and other people's attitudes.
- Promotes positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles



- Provides accurate information about substances
- Increases understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Encourages an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- Widens their understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime effects of different drugs (legal and illegal).
- Seeks to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- Enables young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Foundation stage -Early learning goals

- To know ways to keep healthy and safe.

Key Stage One Children will be taught:

- That exercise and eating the right types of and amounts of food help humans keep healthy
- About the role of drugs as medicines
- Know substances can be harmful if not properly used
- Know safety rules about medicines, tablets, solvents and household substances.
- Know some people need medicines to live a healthy life.

Key Stage Two Children will be taught:

- That medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines and the important role of medicines and their effects
- About the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health
- Vaping
- About the importance of exercise for good health
- How to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressure from friends and others.

Teachers are responsible for delivering drugs related education, together with support from outside agencies in PSHE lessons such as DECCA, science lessons, circle time and through cross curricular links.

Management of Drugs in school

Prescribed medicines for pupils who need them are kept in the school office or in the fridge in the staff room. They are taken with the class teacher for offsite activities. (see administration of medicines policy). Smoking is not allowed on the school premises at any time. This policy applies to all temporary or permanent staff including supply teachers. This policy applies to all visitors to the school.

Management of substance misuse issues.

If a teacher is concerned a pupil is at risk from drugs misuse they must speak to the head teacher. If there are concerns about the safety of the child or if there is a clear child protection issue the head teacher as the DSL needs to be informed. If a pupil discloses information about drug misuse it is important to listen, not guarantee confidentiality and report this to the DSL.



When dealing with a drug related incident we will consider:

- The welfare of the child concerned.
- Whether parents must be involved appropriately.
- Legal requirements
- Recording of all incidents, decisions and monitor the outcomes for the pupil and school community.

Staff should note any significant changes in behaviour of any pupil, which may be attributed to the use of legal or illegal drugs. This should be brought to the attention of the headteacher or designated person. If after further investigation the use of such drugs is confirmed:

- The pupil's parents will be informed (unless the welfare of the child is a concern)
- The headteacher will inform relevant outside agencies

In the event of any incident that is believed to warrant police involvement the headteacher may choose to contact the schools Community Police Officer to seek advise and assistance.

Parents and Carers Under the Influence

If it is found or suspected that a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs on the school premises a calm, responsible approach must be taken. The focus should always be on the child's welfare. It may be necessary to discuss, where possible, with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, e.g. is another responsible adult available to take the child home? Where this becomes a regular pattern, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, consideration will be taken whether to begin safeguarding procedures and/or involve the Police.

Links To Other Agencies

DECCA Team (0845 838 53 17)

Work with young people aged up to 19 years of age. Able to deliver education, brief intervention and treatment for drug related issues.

Drug Concern (0121-580 4338)

Specialists in working with parents and those affected by another's drug use

Referrals to all these services can be made by any agency with permission from the individual concerned. An individual can also refer themselves and we will actively promote the services of these organisations.

NOTE: It would be useful for schools to regularly check the contact details of their Police Local Sector Officer as these may be subject to change.