



**THE RACKHAM**  
**C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# Drugs Policy

**Policy Number:** SCH 038

**Date:** September 2023

### **Aims of this policy**

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

### **Policy context**

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001-2012) which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.

The drugs education of students takes into account the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order, the non-statutory framework for PSHE in Reception, Key Stages 1 and 2.

Other related policies and documents include

- Ethos of the School
- PSHE and Citizenship Policies
- Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- School Visits
- Medical Booklet
- a letter about the use of medication in school
- the school's Code of Conduct.

### **Where and to whom the policy applies**

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school. The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

### **Definition of Drugs**

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: “A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”. Here, “drugs” and “drug education” is used to refer to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour
- which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive
- drugs ('legal highs')
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

### **The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students**

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in The Rackham C of E Primary School is not acceptable. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students.

### **Drugs Education**

#### **Aims of Drug Education**

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention.

The following aims of drug education at The Rackham C of E Primary School will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify 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
  - local and national use
  - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
  - the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including
  - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk
  - communicating effectively
  - resisting pressures
  - finding information, help and advice
  - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
  - developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
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- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
  - To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), local youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education

### **Drug Education Content**

The Rackham C of E Primary School provides a planned drug education curriculum through delivery of Statutory Guidance:

Know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

Further details of the programme can be found in the PSHE Policy and specific detail about approach and content can be obtained from the school.

### **Legal and illegal harmful substances**

Give a clear definition of 'drugs' (substances that change the way the body or mind works).

Teach pupils that there are different types of drugs:

- **medicines** (prescribed by a doctor and 'over the counter', e.g. paracetamol)
- **legal drugs that are not medicines** (e.g. alcohol, tobacco and caffeine)
- **illegal drugs** (give examples if appropriate)
- **other substances that are misused** as drugs

### **Smoking basics**

Explain that smoking is inhaling the smoke from burning tobacco (which is made out of the dried leaves of the tobacco plant). When tobacco is burned it releases dangerous substances including:

- tar - a toxic substance that damages lungs over time
- carbon monoxide - a toxic gas that is absorbed through the lungs and enters the bloodstream

Tobacco also contains a highly addictive chemical called nicotine which makes it hard to stop smoking.

Teach pupils about harms of smoking and the strong link between smoking and serious health conditions (NHS).

### **Smoking risks and dangers**

Explain that smoking is one of the biggest causes of death and illness in the UK. For example, it can:

- cause cancer in various parts of the body (including lungs, mouth, bowel and liver)
- damage your lungs, leading to lung diseases that make breathing difficult
- increase the risk of a heart attack and stroke
- make asthma and the common cold worse

Bear in mind that these facts may scare pupils who have parents who smoke.

### **Passive smoking**

Teach pupils that all of the risks for smoking can also occur as a result of 'passive smoking'. This is when people accidentally breathe in other people's smoke.

- Babies and children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of second-hand smoke.
- Explain that due to the risks of passive smoking, it is against the law to smoke in workplaces, enclosed public buildings and on public transport.
- Explain that it is also illegal to smoke in an enclosed private vehicle if someone under 18 is also present.

### **E-cigarettes (vaping)**

Teach pupils that e-cigarettes allow someone to inhale nicotine in a vapour instead of through tobacco smoke.

People sometimes use e-cigarettes when they are trying to give up smoking. However, vaping also carries risks, and no-one should start vaping unless they are trying to give up smoking, because:

- e-cigarette liquid/vapour still contains low levels of potentially harmful chemicals
- the long-term health risks of vaping (e.g. to heart, lungs and blood vessels) are not known
- most e-cigarettes contain addictive nicotine

### **Alcohol use**

Teach that alcohol is a clear liquid drug (chemical name - ethanol). It is found in different amounts in alcoholic drinks such as beer, wine and spirits.

Acknowledge that many adults drink alcohol, e.g. in social situations.

Explain that many people also choose not to drink any alcohol, introducing vocabulary such as 'teetotal'.

Teachers may also refer to faith perspectives, e.g. that some religions prohibit / strongly discourage drinking alcohol.

Begin to introduce pupils to the [risks of alcohol](#) to physical and mental health (e.g. cancers, stroke, heart disease, liver disease, alcohol poisoning).

Explain that when adults drink more than a certain amount (NHS guidelines) the risks increase.

Teach that alcohol can be addictive and that it can be hard for people to give up or cut back their drinking if they are addicted.

## **Teach pupils that some legal drugs have age restrictions to protect young people.**

### **Smoking:**

Ensure pupils understand laws about children buying cigarettes. You must be 18 or older to buy cigarettes in the UK. It is illegal to sell tobacco, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or e-liquids to anyone under 18, or to buy them for anyone under 18.

### **Alcohol:**

It is illegal to buy or try to buy alcohol if you are under 18. It is also illegal to sell alcohol to, or buy alcohol for, under 18s. Ensure pupils understand laws relating to alcohol and young people.

### **Illegal drugs**

Teach that it is highly dangerous to take illegal drugs because they can cause serious harm to physical and mental health, and even death. The effects of some illegal drugs can be very fast.

Teach that people are also committing a crime if they possess, buy or sell illegal drugs.

Explain that some illegal drugs can also be highly addictive.

### **Prescription drugs risks**

Teach that legal drugs / medicines can cause serious harm to people's health and wellbeing if misused. This includes both prescribed and 'over the counter' medicines such as paracetamol.

Explain that people should only take medicines that a doctor or parent tells them to take, following any extra instructions. It is very dangerous to take other people's prescription drugs, which could make us unwell.

Explain that some legal drugs can also be highly addictive if misused.

### **Addiction risk**

Teach pupils that smoking, drinking alcohol and taking certain types of drugs can be addictive (varies by substance and frequency of use) and what this means.

Explain that:

- it can be hard for people to stop using a substance once they are addicted
- addictions sometimes lead to problems such as abusive behaviour and debt
- there is help available for people who want to stop smoking, drinking alcohol or taking drugs

### **Risks of accidents after drinking or using drugs**

Explain that some substances (including alcohol and both illegal and some legal drugs) can affect how people's brains and bodies work, often slowing down thinking and responses.

This makes activities such as using machinery, driving or swimming particularly dangerous. The risk of serious accidents from these and other activities are much higher after people have consumed alcohol or drugs.

## Organisation

### a) Responsibility for coordination

The coordination of Drugs Education is the responsibility of the PSHE Lead. The Curriculum Leader for Science also has responsibility for elements of drugs education.

### b) Delivery

Discreet lessons as part of PSHE lessons which have a specific drugs education focus are delivered by a teacher in mixed gender and ability groups. Other staff who may deliver specific aspects of Drug Education will have access to on-going advice, support and appropriate training as part of their own professional development.

### c) Visitors

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of drug education

### d) Teaching strategies

A variety of teaching strategies is used including teacher exposition, discussion, project learning, research, questionnaires, quizzes, distancing techniques, DVD, on-line materials, external contributors, individual and group work, peer education, case studies, media analysis, structured games, reflection. Active learning methods are used at all times.

### e) Students with special educational needs (SEN)

Relevant staff will ensure that drug education is accessible to students with special educational needs by considering resources and materials used, timings, teaching strategies

### f) Resources

A wide variety of materials is available to teachers and for inspection by parents on request.

### g) Monitoring and evaluation

This is conducted through some lesson observation.

## Specific issues

The following issues may occur within Drugs Education:

### a) Visitors

- Code of Practice for using visitors to support the delivery of Drugs Education
- Visitors are invited in to school because of their particular expertise or contribution they are able to make; invitations to visitors should be cleared with the Headteacher or designated safeguarding lead.
- All visitors must be appropriately qualified and trained to deliver work with children and young people in a school setting.
- All visitors must have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the session and have seen and understood the school's drug education policy.
- All visitors must be aware of the school's protocols for dealing with any disclosures or distress shown by students during the session.
- Teachers must ensure that they reflect on the learning from particular sessions with students and visitors, assessing the learning, and building skills to support and enable pupils to make healthy choices and to avoid risk-taking behaviour.
- Teachers must follow-up any unresolved issues or concerns and extend the learning

begun by the visitor.

- All visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the Headteacher with responsibility for the programme.
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and students. This evaluation informs future planning.
- When a visitor is acting in their professional capacity in a consultation with an individual student, they will follow their own professional code of conduct.

#### b) Confidentiality

- Staff always ensure that students know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- All students are offered sensitive and appropriate support as needed.
- Students are encouraged to talk to their parents and carers and supported to do so.
- Information about sources of help is made available e.g., helplines.
- If there is any possibility that a child may be at risk or putting others at risk, the school's
- Child Protection/Safeguarding procedure is followed (see Staff Handbook). Staff will reassure students that their best interests will be maintained and any child concerned will be supported through the process.

#### c) Dealing with questions

- Ground rules established with the class set clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting.
- Students' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the student concerned. Questions may be addressed individually later if more appropriate.
- Staff are given appropriate support, advice and training for dealing with questions.
- If a teacher is concerned, they will follow the Child Protection/Safeguarding procedures.

### **Management of drug-related incidents**

Defining a drug-related incident

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity;
- involvement in 'county line' or gang-related drug issues

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The Headteacher or an available member of SLT will be informed of the situation



- immediately.
- iii. Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or a member of SLT as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions.
  - iv. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
  - v. The Headteacher or a member of SLT will inform, consult and involve others as necessary.
  - vi. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
  - vii. Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93)
  - viii. Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.
  - ix. After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
  - x. Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the security cupboard.
  - xi. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
  - xii. A detailed record of the incident will be made by the Headteacher or DSL. A copy of the record will be kept by the Headteacher and DSL. There will be no other copies of the incidents.
  - xiii. The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

### **Responses to drug related incidents**

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident.

Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

- i. While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police. If so, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them,

- will make the call.
- ii. If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Headteacher and appropriate member of SLT) in order to decide whether others outside the school should be informed. These may include parents/carers, the appropriate personnel in the LA, Childrens' Social Care and police.
  - iii. Responses to / sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Headteacher, appropriate member(s) of staff, Drugs
  - iv. Pastoral Lead and other appropriate colleagues.

Possible responses include:

- targeted intervention
- referral
- counselling
- behaviour support plans
- inter-agency programmes
- fixed-term exclusion
- pastoral support programmes
- a managed move
- permanent exclusion

Responses and sanctions will take into account:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned
- the short and long term welfare of other students
- guidance in DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001-2012) consistency
- with published school rules, codes and expectations
- consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents
- consistency with disciplinary action for other misdemeanours.

(iv) The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media if required.

### **Early Intervention**

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

The school will also be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as Children's Social Care, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, for the family.

### **Tobacco-smoke Free School**

The Rackham C of E Primary School is a non-smoking school for all staff, students and visitors.

### **Role of the Governors**

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, governors have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy.

### **Dissemination**

All staff, parents/carers and students will be reminded of this policy and its procedures on a regular basis.

The policy and schemes of work are available on request to parents through the Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed and agreed in line with Government guidelines by the Governing Body.

### **Approved and signed by:**

#### **Headteacher**



**Signed:**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### **Chair of Governing body**



**Signed:**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023