

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

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, 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.

This policy document identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum and takes account of the guidance from the DfE Drug Advice for Schools 2012:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

This policy applies to all curriculum activities at Redhill Primary School and any out of school activities such as day trips or residential trips.

Signature _____ **Role:** _____ **Date:** _____

Signature _____ **Role:** _____ **Date:** _____

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Aims and Objective

Redhill believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

We have prioritised the following objectives:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practise the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their use misuse, benefits, and harm.
- To minimise the harm from drugs to pupils.

1. Location and dissemination

In accordance with government guidance, Redhill Primary School has a designated PSHE (Society) leader who is responsible for the management of drug education within the school. The leader has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to governors, other subject leaders, classroom teachers and teaching assistants. Curriculum mapping which details which elements are taught where can be found within the Society curriculum handbook. Reference to drug and substance abuse can be found in the following policies:

- Health and Safety
- Medicine
- Confidentiality
- Behaviour policy
- Relationships and Sex Education policy

Leaders will therefore ensure that:

- The Drug Education Policy is disseminated to all members of the school community which is discussed and understood.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified. The underpinning aims and values and attitudes towards drug education are made explicit.
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school.
- The equality of opportunity is promoted.
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development within the field of drugs awareness and education.

Local and national references

The laws that are most relevant to the school are:

- Misuse of Drugs Acts, 1977 and 1984. Offences under these acts include Possession with intent to supply and Possession for personal use. Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 places obligations on managers of premises to prevent certain activities on those premises. Any building within the school grounds would be defined as premises as would any yards, gardens, front steps, adjoining alleys, or out-buildings. Other settings such as mini buses also constitute "premises". Where staff know that illegal drugs are being consumed on the premises, they are obliged under Misuse of Drugs Act section 8, to take steps to stop it happening. Failure to do so would be an offence under the Act.
- [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools](#)

There are other laws controlling tobacco, alcohol, solvents and medicines.

Definitions and terminology

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 at Redhill 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.

Staff with key responsibility for drugs

If substances are brought onto the school premises, this will be dealt with in a similar way to the carrying of alcohol, but the confiscated substances would be handed over to the police and the child will be kept with the Headteacher until parents/ carers could come to collect them. Illegal drugs should be stored in an envelope that is sealed in the presence of a witness. The seal should then be signed by the Headteacher and the witness and stored in the school office. The school would refer to the behaviour and safeguarding policy before making any judgements.

Involvement of Academy Council

The Headteacher should notify the chairperson (or vice chair if not available) of the Academy Council about any substance related incident. This should be done in advance of any information being released. It is important to ensure that confidentiality is preserved.

Staff support and training

All staff, including support staff, need access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education and its style of delivery within the Society curriculum. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities. Primarily, we will use the teacher guidance provided by the DfE on the delivery of the RSE curriculum.

Areas of individual staff development will be identified through existing staff development system such as performance management and staff audits.

Management of drugs at school and on school trips with children

This policy relates to all buildings and play areas inside the school boundaries and when the school's duties of care responsibilities apply (e.g. school and residential activities). Any drug related incident outside of the school day but within school grounds will be dealt with by the police but may also incur school sanctions.

a) Smoking or vaping on site

This school is a no smoking or vaping site. Any pupils found with smoking related items will have them confiscated and parents/ carer will be notified immediately. Repeated offences will be dealt with via the school's behaviour policy.

b) Under the influence of alcohol or drugs

- I. If a child is not ill but appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol the parents/ carers will be contacted, and appropriate safeguarding measures will be made.
- II. If a child is ill normal medical procedures will be followed and if necessary, an ambulance called. Parents/ carers will be contacted immediately.
- III. After the events described in i and ii above, once the student has recovered, the parent/ carers will be invited to a meeting with the Headteacher and safeguarding proceedings will continue.
- IV.

c) Carrying alcohol in school

Any child caught drinking alcohol or flaunting alcohol in school will have it taken away. Parents/ carers will be informed immediately and safeguarding procedures will be followed.

d) Searches

The school will always seek consent and ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused, the school will need to consider whether to call the parents/ carers and/or the police. Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment and distress. Further guidance can be found in [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#).

I. Personal searches

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs, it is not appropriate for a member of staff to carry out a personal search; this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort will be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second witness. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then police must be called.

II. Searches of school property

Staff may search school property, for example, a child's tray or locker if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always aim to be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused, the school may wish to proceed with a search. However, when consent is refused, the school will need to balance the likelihood that an offence has been committed against the risk of infringing the individual's privacy without just cause.

III. Searches of personal property

Schools must not search personal property without consent. Where consent is refused, they will need to consider, in the case of the child, notifying parents/carers, who may persuade their child to give consent or if they wish to proceed along formal lines, call the police.

Sanctions, up to and including exclusion will be applied for: -

- Possession of any illegal drug with the suspected intention to misuse
- Misuse of drugs on school premises
- Supplying/dealing drugs for the purposes of misuse

Drug use on the premises by an adult

Our school makes it clear that drug use on the premises is not acceptable except in the case of prescribed medication which is known to a member of the senior leadership team. This includes:

- Smoking on or around the school premises either during the school day or during evening or weekend events. This includes the use of e-cigarettes.
- Alcohol on the school site during the school day
- Alcohol consumed by adults in the playground
- Adults on the school premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement
- Adults in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the school premises

Where school staff suspect that there is transgression of these guidelines the senior leadership team should be informed immediately at which point a judgement will be made as to whether they should:

- approach the individual
- call the police
- plan to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of children on the school site

At all times the safety of the children remains the key factor in any decision made whilst staff should also be alert to the danger they may bring on themselves by certain courses of action. Any repeat of transgressions might be referred to the police for legal action to be taken. If there is concern that parents collecting a child may potentially place that child at risk the school can, in extreme circumstances, refuse to hand over the pupil. The appropriate services would then be notified immediately.

Working with external agencies

- Visitors are invited into school because of their expertise or contribution they can make; invitations to visitors should be cleared with the Headteacher or designated teacher.
- All visitors must be appropriately qualified and trained to deliver work with children and young people in a school setting-completing the visitation form.
- 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 sessions with children 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.
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff. 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.

Involvement of parents/carers

Redhill values its work in partnership with parents and carers and with the wider school community and sees this as an essential element of developing this policy and the schools drug education programme. We also aim to support parents in their efforts to inform their children through newsletters and Class Dojo.

A. Involving parents and carers:

- All children and young people should be encouraged, wherever possible, to discuss their drug and alcohol use with their parents and carers. Evidence demonstrates that being able to discuss issues of drug and alcohol use openly with their parents is a protective factor for later drug and alcohol misuse.
- Drug and alcohol misusing young people can create many tensions and difficulties for their families. Parents, carers, and siblings may need support in their own right.
- In exceptional circumstances it may be felt that it is detrimental to the safety of the young person to inform a parent/carer of substance misuse issues. In this case, staff should seek guidance from safeguarding.

B. Parent/carer substance misuse:

- Parent or carer substance misuse can have a huge impact on a young person.
- It is important where schools become aware that a student is experiencing difficulties because of substance use and misuse by other family members, they offer support for students and parents from local agencies.
- If there is evidence (or it is suspected) that a child may be at risk of significant harm as a consequence of substance use or misuse within the family, it will be necessary to follow appropriate safeguarding procedures.

Curriculum Delivery

Teaching about drugs is generally best provided as part of an integrated programme of Personal, Social and Health Education across the key stages. At Redhill, we have woven the drug curriculum throughout the Society programme which is relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible, and develops, as pupils grow older. Society is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to talk openly and honestly.

To effectively cover all aspects of drug education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed. Redhill aims to deliver this area of the curriculum through a variety of approaches including class debate, working in pairs and groups as well as whole class, brainstorming, use of drama and role play, use of puppets, use of stories, researching impact and consequences of substance and drug misuse involvement of other organisations and visitors. Teaching about safety and relationships as part of PSHE education contributes to how we approach the safeguarding of pupils. It helps them to recognise when they and others are at risk and equips them with the skills, strategies, and language they need to take appropriate action.

Staff conduct and drugs

School staff must not use any controlled, non-prescribed drug or alcohol during working hours. Such use will constitute a serious disciplinary issue and may result in dismissal. Staff should not work when incapacitated due to the effects or after-effects of such substances. Staff should adhere to the Shaw Education Trust protocol for the management of alcohol and substance misuse.

Annex A Useful Resources

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Annex B Flowchart to support order of events when incident is noticed

