

Littledean Church of England Primary School and Pre-School

Drug Management and Education Policy

At Littledean C of E Primary School and Pre-School 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, wellbeing 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

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

Organisation of Drug Education

We will provide children with drug education as an integral part of our PHSCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) curriculum. Children will be able to do the following:

Pre-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain what they should do if they feel unsafe• Recognise potential dangers and how to stay safe, inside and outside• Learn the importance of keeping safe around medicines and unknown products
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about how to keep their bodies healthy and safe.• Name ways to stay safe around medicines• Name the safe ways to store medicine and who can give it to children (adults).
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand that medicines can sometimes make people feel better when they're ill;• Explain simple issues of safety and responsibility about medicines and their use.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand that medicines can sometimes make people feel better when they're ill;• Give examples of some of the things that a person can do to feel better without use of medicines, if they are unwell;• Explain simple issues of safety and responsibility about medicines and their use.• Understand that vaccinations can help to prevent certain illnesses.
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify some key risks from and effects of cigarettes and alcohol;• Know that most people choose not to smoke cigarettes; (Social Norms message)• Define the word 'drug' and understand that nicotine and alcohol are both drugs.• Understand that medicines are drugs and suggest ways that they can be helpful or harmful.• Understand that medicines are drugs and suggest ways that they can be helpful or harmful.• Understand some of the key risks and effects of smoking and drinking alcohol;• Understand that increasing numbers of young people are choosing not to smoke and that not all people drink alcohol (Social Norms theory).
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand some of the key risks and effects of smoking and drinking alcohol;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that increasing numbers of young people are choosing not to smoke and that not all people drink alcohol (Social Norms theory). • Understand that medicines are drugs; • Explain safety issues for medicine use.
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the actual norms around smoking and the reasons for common misperceptions of these. • Understand some of the complexities of categorising drugs; • Know that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines; • Understand ways in which medicines can be helpful or harmful and used safely or unsafely. • Describe some of the health risks caused by vaping; • Understand that there are potential health risks of vaping that are not yet fully known; • Use critical thinking skills when reading information/media; • Understand that companies selling vaping products do so to make money.
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand some of the basic laws in relation to drugs; • Explain why there are laws relating to drugs in this country. • Understand the actual norms around drinking alcohol and the reasons for common misperceptions of these; • Describe some of the effects and risks of drinking alcohol. • Explain how drugs can be categorised into different groups depending on their medical and legal context; • Demonstrate an understanding that drugs can have both medical and non-medical uses; • Explain in simple terms some of the laws that control drugs in this country • Define what is meant by addiction, demonstrating an understanding that addiction is a form of behaviour.

Children will also be given opportunities to:

- Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- Practice decision making skills.
- Become aware of peer pressure.
- Develop assertiveness skills.
- Consider the consequences of risk taking behaviours.
- Learn how to access sources of help and information.
- Emphasis the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- Evaluate media messages on drug use.

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme such as the local School Beat Officer.

Management of Drugs at School

Medicines – The school has a policy and procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Alcohol – No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Head Teacher. Any adults under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the school site for the safety of the whole school.

Tobacco/Vaping – The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Children are not allowed to bring to school smoking materials, including matches, lighters or vapes. In the interests of health and safety, should a child be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.

Solvents – The school will ensure that any potentially hazardous substances are stored safely. Children are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (only exception permitted is aerosol Ventolin/any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored away from children).

Illegal Drugs – No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

Drug Related Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs or related items on the school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on the school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on the school premises.
- Supply of drugs on the school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours or reports of drug possession, supply or use.

Guiding Principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regards to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Head Teacher will be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering support and liaising with outside agencies.

Procedures

Medical Emergencies - If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. An ambulance will be called if needed.

Hearsay/Rumour - Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Head Teacher who should record the matter as hearsay evidence on My Concern where it will be possible to compile a record of whether there is a pattern of concerns.

Suspicious Behaviour – Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged on My Concern so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and acted upon where necessary.

Finding Substances – If a substance or equipment, thought to be illegal or harmful, is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a child the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded, including:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval.
- The size and appearance of the substance.
- The names of those concerned.
- The action taken.

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of items such as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure, rigid container for collection by an appropriate person. If these are found on a child, the parents should be informed.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Head Teacher, or their representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named child if this applies. Staff should not search a child's property or person but should try to persuade the child to voluntarily produce the substance by asking them to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a child a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there is reasonable grounds to suspect a child is in possession of an illegal substance.

Finding Drugs

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents, vapes or prescribed or over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

Supply of Illegal Substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Returning of articles which have been confiscated

Articles confiscated and not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for collection or the articles will be disposed of by the school.

Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a child. The safety and wellbeing of a child will be paramount in all decision made about how to address concerns and what action to take.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Administering Medicines

Asthma

Behaviour Management

First Aid

Health and Safety

Managing Aggressive Behaviour

Safeguarding / Child Protection

Whistleblowing

Date of Review: December 2023

Date of Next Review: December 2026