



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Policy Number

17

Drug and Substance Misuse Policy

Approved by:	Local Governing Body	Date: March 2025
Last reviewed on:	March 2025	
Next review due by:	March 2028	

Drug and Substance Misuse Policy

We are committed to promoting the welfare of our community and creating a supportive environment where individuals feel comfortable seeking help. We recognise that educating children about substance misuse is a shared responsibility between the school and parents, and we will keep parents informed about drug-related issues as needed.

For the purpose of this policy, the term *drugs* refers to any substance that, when introduced to the body, can alter how it functions, affect the brain, change mood, feelings, perceptions, or behaviour. This includes:

- **Medicines** – e.g. aspirin, antibiotics, asthma inhalers (when used as prescribed).
- **Legal drugs** – e.g. alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (such as glue or aerosols), ketamine, khat, poppers (alkyl nitrites).
- **Illegal drugs** – Substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, such as cannabis (Class C), amphetamines (Class B), cocaine, ecstasy, heroin (Class A).

We recognise that while some drugs, like medicines, can be beneficial when used correctly, all drugs have the potential to cause harm if misused. It is important that pupils understand that:

- Medicines should only be used as directed by a medical professional.
- Misuse of any substance, including legal drugs, can have serious consequences.

As a school, we aim to provide clear and consistent information to pupils, avoiding mixed messages about drug use and its impact. (See Medicines Policy for further guidance.)

The school's stance on drugs

The school does not tolerate the misuse of drugs, the supply of illegal substances, or the possession of any unauthorised substances on school premises or during school activities.

We are committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all pupils, staff, and visitors. This will be achieved through:

A: Delivering a clear and age-appropriate programme of drug education.

B: Responding sensitively and effectively to any drug-related incidents.

Our approach prioritises safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our school community at all times.

A: Drugs Education

We recognise that children are growing up in a world where a wide range of drugs — including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances — are available and accessible. The decisions individuals make about drugs can have significant consequences for themselves, their families, friends, and the wider community.

We aim to:

- Help pupils feel confident and value themselves and others.
- Provide knowledge to make safe and informed choices about drugs.
- Encourage thoughtful attitudes towards drugs and drug use.
- Develop practical skills to make safe decisions.
- Ensure pupils know where to find help if they have concerns.

Our approach to drug education is embedded in our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of the whole school community. This policy works alongside our PSHE, Sex and Relationships, Behaviour, and Anti-Bullying policies to help pupils develop the skills and understanding they need to become healthy, responsible, and well-adjusted citizens.

Content and Learning Outcomes

Drug education is delivered as part of the PSHE curriculum (See Appendix 1) and also in science. This aligns with the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Science and the non-statutory PSHE&C guidance. The National Curriculum specifies the aspects of drug education that must be taught, and every school is required to have an up-to-date drug education policy, which is also a key component of the Healthy Schools Standard initiative.

The drug education aspects of the PSHE curriculum will primarily be delivered by school teachers, but external contributors may be used to enhance the programme where appropriate. These visitors should be engaged in a planned way, and their contributions will be evaluated. To ensure consistency, all external contributors must provide a detailed outline of their content and objectives prior to the visit.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Staff

All staff have a role in promoting positive, healthy choices and teaching Drug Education in line with this policy. They should:

- Be aware of pupils' needs.
- Establish clear ground rules for discussions.
- Follow safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.
- Equip pupils with knowledge and skills to make informed choices.

Staff should handle sensitive questions carefully, deflecting personal questions and providing accurate information where appropriate.

No individual should guarantee a child absolute confidentiality. If there are any disclosures made which raise concerns, the staff member must refer to Child Protection protocol by consulting with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will advise or act upon the concern.

PSHE Leader

The PSHE Leader oversees the planning, delivery, monitoring and resourcing of Drug Education across the school. They provide staff training as needed and review the policy every two years or sooner if required.

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring Drug Education is effectively delivered, keeping the governing body informed, and addressing any concerns arising from pupil disclosures.

Governing Body

The Governing Body works with the Headteacher to agree and support the school's approach to Drug Education.

Parents

Parents cannot withdraw children from drug education. They have the right to access this policy and be informed about the school's drug education provision. We aim to foster a strong parent-school partnership and will notify parents if their child will be receiving drug education, helping them prepare for any related questions.

B: Management of Drug-Related Incidents

A drug-related incident involves the possession, use, supply, or discovery of unauthorised substances on school premises, during school activities, or under the school's jurisdiction. Every incident will be considered individually, balancing the needs of the pupil and the wider school community.

If a pupil is suspected of or found in possession of an unauthorised substance:

- Staff should aim to involve the pupil to clarify the situation.
- Pupils cannot be physically searched by staff but may be asked to empty their pockets or bags. Refusal may result in police involvement, at the discretion of the Headteacher.

- Parents will usually be informed unless there are safeguarding concerns.

If an unauthorised substance is found on the premises:

- Secure the substance in a sealed bag and store it in a locked place until it can be handed to the police.
- Avoid handling the substance without a witness and keep a factual written record.

If a pupil discovers a suspected drug:

- Advise the pupil not to touch it.
- Inform a member of staff immediately.

If drug supply is suspected on or near school premises:

- Report the matter to the police.

Immediate First Aid (if required):

- If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence or has a medical emergency related to drugs, immediate first aid should be provided, and medical assistance sought.

If a legal but unauthorised substance is found (e.g., energy drinks, vapes, unauthorised medication):

- The substance will be confiscated, and parents will be informed.

Support and Follow-Up:

- The school will determine appropriate sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy. Additionally, the school will consider whether pastoral support or referral to external support services is required.
- For vulnerable pupils, external agencies may be involved, and the pupil's welfare will be considered at all stages.

Post-Incident Review:

- After any drug-related incident, the school will conduct a review to assess whether any changes to policy, procedures, or pupil support are needed.

Confidentiality:

- Staff cannot promise total confidentiality to pupils. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis unless withholding it would cause harm to the pupil, in which case safeguarding procedures will apply.

Anonymous Reporting:

- Pupils who have concerns about drug use or supply among peers are encouraged to speak to a member of staff or report anonymously via [school's anonymous reporting system, if available].

Disposal of Substances:

- If the police do not collect the substance, disposal should follow local authority or police guidance. Staff should never attempt to dispose of the substance themselves.

Recording and Reporting:

- All incidents will be recorded using the Drugs-Related Incident Management Record. The governors will be informed where appropriate.