



Western Road Community Primary School

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

This policy was reviewed September 2024

This policy may be reviewed at any time subject to the discretion of the Governing Body.

Aims and Objectives

Western Road School is committed to pro-actively tackling the increasing drug use/misuse amongst young people. The aim of the 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.

We take a whole school approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy school. We recognise and take very seriously the role the school can play in educating young people about drug use and misuse. Work at an early age can have a positive impact on preventing drug use or delaying the onset of drug experimentation. Primary age children have increasing awareness of the types of drug used in society and a small number of primary children may have experimented with some of the more widely available drugs or have family who have been affected by drug misuse.

Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

This policy relates to the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) policy, confidentiality policy, behaviour policy and health and safety policy.

Definition of 'Drugs':

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions.

The term 'Drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate. (See administration of medicines policy.)

Our school also operates a smoke-free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously. We will ensure parents are informed about their children's drug education, the school rules in relation to drugs and have the opportunity to be consulted about the school's policy and teaching programme.

The goal of drug and alcohol education is:

For pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHE that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- Enable young people to develop a sense of confidence and increase their self –esteem
- Enable young people to develop a positive attitude towards personal health and safety
- Enable pupils to develop techniques for avoiding and resisting pressure and exploitation

The specific aims and objectives should match the age and maturity and experience of the children involved.

On the whole teachers teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school drug policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the LEA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

Statutory Duty of School

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies. who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Teaching and Learning

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used for the delivery of PSHE. There will be a place for didactic teaching methods within the programme, but more frequently the use of active participatory approaches will more effectively engage children in the learning process. A balanced range of teaching and learning methods will provide the necessary knowledge and understanding as well as offering our children the opportunities to examine values, attitudes and behaviour that are essential to a holistic drug education programme.

The climate of the teaching environment will need to be such that our children feel secure and able to discuss issues relating to drug use and misuse without constraint, and to respond to each other with a considerate and sympathetic approach.

The learning objectives for drug and alcohol education include:

Attitudes and Values

- to examine own opinions and values, and those of others
- to promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self safe
- to enhance self awareness and self esteem
- to value and respect self and others
- to value diversity and difference within society
- to promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs

Personal and Social Skills

- to identify risks to health
- to communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals
- to learn how to give and secure help
- to develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug use
- to develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made

- to be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media
- to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- to be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- to develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

Knowledge and Understanding

- to develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs
- to gain an understanding of how the body functions
- to gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use
- to gain an understanding of the role of drugs in society and the laws and rules relating to their use
- to gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have worries and an understanding of confidentiality
- to gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change.

Health and Safety Issues

Our Administration of medicines policy explains our approach to children who need to take medicine at school.

If someone enters the premises intoxicated and becomes a danger to others they will be escorted away and if necessary the police alerted.

If a parent collects a child from school and is obviously intoxicated and a danger to the children the head teacher and senior management will be informed and the risk to the child assessed. If the child is considered to be at risk, all attempts will be made to contact another responsible family member or friend to collect the child. Social services or the LEA may be informed. If necessary the police will be called.

We aim to provide a consistency of approach throughout the school and to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. We encourage children to develop positive attitudes and values and to ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed when dealing with incidents/equipment related to drugs and drug use.

Welfare of pupils is paramount and procedures and policies are designed to reflect this commitment.

Confidentiality and child protection

Western Road School is committed to act in the best interest of all the individuals within the school community. Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will be honored unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfill their professional responsibilities in relation to child protection, cooperation with a police investigation or referral to an external service. Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality.

It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. In such circumstances the member of staff will inform the nominated child protection officer, of concerns. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a pupil, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home. Where there is disclosure of illegal substance use by a pupil, parents will be informed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

Drug related situations

A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs.

We do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on premises will be disposed of appropriately.

The designated senior member of staff for drug related situations is: Headteacher, Mrs Wooler.

The following will guide staff's response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse.

- Initial response and investigation;
- Inform senior colleague – who will guide investigation, ensure written record is made and decide about any disposal;
- Consider responses, including whether to contact police – including possible disposal and further searching;
- Contact parents / carers;
- Consider contacting chair of governors, LEA and other support services;
- Consider sanctions / support needs of pupil(s) involved;
- Draw up and implement action plan.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal substances found on pupils will be confiscated. If necessary a pupil will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent / carer.

Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a pupil is discovered with tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal drugs, then a fixed period exclusion will be a consideration. More serious disciplinary consequences will be considered, together with support needs and child protection, dependent upon individual circumstances.

The school has the powers, with police assistance if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of pupils during the journey to and from school is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a pupil due to parent / carer intoxication then discussion will be held with the adult and consideration given to moving the pupil to a safer environment and / or alternative means of travel home.

Educational visit/social events

The school's drug education policy applies during school visits and school social events.

During educational visits:

- Staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits, which will include the issue of consumption of alcohol and smoking by staff.
- Adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place.
- A nominated first aider will be responsible for the safe storage of any pupils' medicines and supervision their administration.
- Pupils will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

School social events:

- At all social events organised by the school the responsibility for the conduct of the pupils present remains with the parent/carer.
- At such events the school 'No Smoking Policy will be enforced.
- This school will not condone the use of any illegal substance by any individual during social activities connected with the school.
- Adults at designated school functions, subject to compliance with licensing law and

within reasonable limits, may consume alcohol.

Staff matters including training

All staff are expected to work within the agreed policy and their own professional and employment terms and conditions.

Training will be available to all staff on: basic awareness of drugs (including alcohol), emergency procedures, procedures in the event of an incident, confidentiality and disclosure, and awareness of the drug education teaching programme within PSHE and citizenship and its consistency with the school's values. In addition, the specific professional development needs of teachers delivering aspects of drug education within PSHE and citizenship, will be incorporated into individual and team professional development plans.

Implementation, monitoring and review

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head and Governors. Opportunities will be made to inform parents about their children's drug education and about wider support and concerns about drugs, both through written information and parent events.