

The Grove Primary School



Drug Education Policy

...every moment matters!

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This policy should be read and understood in with reference to the following school's policies and documents:

SCHOOL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
School Policies
Behaviour & Code of Conduct Policy
Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSE) Policy
Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) Policy
Child Protection & Safeguarding policy
Non-smoking Policy
Vaping Policy

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1. Introduction

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, include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. This will include:

- Tobacco or Vapes
- Alcohol
- Medicines
- Illegal Substances

We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

The Department for Education (DfE)'s statutory guidance for Health Education at primary phase requires that pupils be taught the facts and risks associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use. We believe that all children and young people have a right to effective drug and alcohol education that not only teaches them the facts about substances and their effects but also equips them with the skills, strategies and attributes to manage their lives in a substance-using society.

Alongside the statutory requirements, teaching about how to manage social influence, pressure and risk is vital in promoting pupils' ability to navigate the situations in which they may encounter substances. It also contributes to safeguarding, by providing pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attributes, skills and strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe. Teaching about drugs and alcohol should be integrated within a planned PSHE education curriculum, where it will enhance – and be enhanced by – teaching in other topic areas.

In addition, whilst PSHE education remains a non-statutory subject, **section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework** document states that: 'All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.'

It goes on to note that:

'Schools should seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the national curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education,

relationships and health education (RSE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.'

In spite of this flexibility, all schools have statutory duties to meet. As **section 2.1 of the National Curriculum framework** states:

'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'.

These duties are set out in the **2002 Education Act** and the **2010 Academies Act**. Schools also have statutory responsibilities in relation to promoting pupil wellbeing and pupil safeguarding (**Children Act 2004**) and community cohesion (**Education Act 2006**). PSHE education plays an important part in fulfilling all of the responsibilities.

This policy applies to school premises, day trips, and residential visits.

2. Aims and Objectives

This school 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 develop children's personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills.
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- To encourage children to value themselves and others.
- To encourage children to help and support others.
- To encourage children to work cooperatively in active learning and group work.
- To clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false knowledge.
- To help children deal with the effect of media coverage of issues relating to drugs.
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use.
- To ensure all staff are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use at The Grove Primary School.

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self-esteem.

3. Staffing and Staff Development

All staff, including support staff, should have access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education curriculum and its style of delivery.

4. Curriculum organisation and planning

Drug education will be delivered in this school through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. This will take the form of:

- **Discrete curriculum time**
by delivering age appropriate drug education within the planned PSHE curriculum for all pupils – making use of the excellent child-friendly resources and planning available from our PSHE scheme of work (Coram Life SCARF Education).
- **Through, and in, other curriculum areas**
by identifying and planning for opportunities within other curriculum areas especially within Science and other topic work relating to healthy choices.

Teaching about safety and relationships as part of PSHE education contributes to how schools 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.

- At Key Stage 1, children learn about being safe with medicines and household substances, making healthy, informed choices and following safety rules.
- At Key Stage 2, children learn about the effects of alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs.

5. 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. This programme is relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible, and develops, as pupils grow older. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and

adults feel able to talk openly and honestly. In both Key Stages we follow the Coram Life SCARF Scheme of work.

Coram Life Education is the leading provider of health, wellbeing and drugs education to 675,000 children across the UK, delivered under the strapline 'Helping Children Make Healthy Choices'.

In order to effectively cover all aspects of drug education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed. The school aims to deliver this area of the curriculum through a variety of approaches including Circle Time, working in pairs and groups as well as whole class, brainstorming, use of drama and role play, use of puppets, use of stories, involvement of other organisations and visitors.

6. Resources

Resources that support this area of the curriculum will be up-to date, relevant to pupils and presented in ways that are consistent with the fundamental aims of PSHE and Citizenship. Drugs education is also delivered through the teaching of Science. The NC guidelines for science require that children are taught:

- At KS1 about the roles of drugs and medicines.
- At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

7. Partnerships

The school 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 school's drug education programme. We also aim to support parents in their efforts to inform their children. We do this through newsletters and the school website.

8. Equality of Opportunity

The school has a commitment to Equal Opportunities and this will be built into all aspects of drug education. We recognise that some pupils with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviour are/are not acceptable. Where pupils are taking prescribed medication they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs.

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Provision for drug education, including the personal development of pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Senior Management, the PSHE Subject Leader

and the class teachers. This will be done by checking that whole school drug education objectives are met, standards of teaching and learning expected are achieved, there are adequate resources and schemes of work are being taught appropriately.

10. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the school's commitment to:

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drugs

The school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug) which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term-time, on school visits, school journeys/ residential and at school social events. These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and those working in and visiting the school.

A drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries. These can involve a parent/carer collecting their child while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; misuse of another pupil's inhaler; disclosing concern about a family member who is abusing drugs; giving medicines to another pupil; and the finding of drugs, or related items, on school premises.

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard 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 Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils.

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply;

- The Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking into account the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/Carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation

- Support agencies, including the police, will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Possible responses might be:

- Support and counselling
- Sanctions – where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the Behaviour Policy

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. In all cases the Headteacher should be informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

11. Pupil Discipline and Support

The Headteacher will be responsible for deciding how to discipline a pupil following any drug-related incidents and all factors influencing the incident will be taken into account. Our Behaviour Policy has clear sanctions for breaking school rules and a variety of consequences/sanctions are possible. Exclusion may be appropriate in rare and serious cases.

All incidents will be recorded by the Senior Leadership Team.

12. Disclosure

When a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that staff cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone; however, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made.

Our school rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If we are concerned that a pupil is at risk then we will follow the school's Child Protection procedures.

We are sensitive to the needs of pupils who live within families where there is evidence of drug abuse. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a pupil discloses, we will assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and, if needed, involve external support for the pupil and, where appropriate, for the family.

13. Confidentiality

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice; however, staff cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE programme and curriculum areas. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of pupils they must inform the Headteacher or DSL.

14. Confiscating an illegal drug and its disposal

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the pupil refuses, the Headteacher may decide to contact parents and/or the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). We will always inform parents if the police are called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our pupils, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern, or that they may seriously over-react and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal and will be removed and either secured until it can be taken to a pharmacist for disposal or handed to the police as soon as possible. We will always ensure that a witness is present when disposing of any drug. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues. We will keep a written record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.

15. Smoking

The Grove Primary School is committed to providing a healthy environment and to promoting healthy living. We believe that everyone is entitled to work in a smoke free environment where they are protected from the effects of second hand smoke. We are also committed to providing a safe environment for the children who attend our school.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds. Any disregard for school restrictions on smoking will be treated as any other breach of school discipline. See also our separate policy on Non-Smoking Procedures.

16. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary.