



Phonics Policy



Encourage, Guide, Support, Celebrate

Date Approved: Spring 2025

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Introduction

The purpose of our Drug Education Policy is to:

- Clarify legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on the school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of our education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies
- Provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- 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.
- Build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self-esteem.
- The policy applies to school activities both within and out of school hours. It includes Breakfast & After School Club, extra- curricular activities and residential trips.

It links to the following policies: PSHE, Administration of Medication, Good Behaviour, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and SEND.

Definition of Substance

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".

The policy should make clear that the term 'drug' refers to:

- legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents/volatile substances
- medicines - prescription and 'over the counter'
- illegal substances
- recognition that **any drug** can be potentially dangerous.

It may be helpful to clarify the terms drug use and drug misuse (e.g. that legal drugs and medicines can be misused).

The School's Approach to Drugs, Health and Safety and the Needs of the Pupils

Our first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils

Aughton St. Michael's C. of E. Primary School is a no smoking school. Therefore, smoking is not allowed on the premises (including the playground).

Alcohol is also banned in normal circumstances i.e. when children are present. An exception to this is official school functions, for which permission is required from the Governing Body.

Solvent based products will only be used by adults following the guidance in the COSH policy. Pupils are discouraged from taking aerosols on residential trips.

Illegal substances are prohibited on the school premises and for all school activities.

Drugs Education Curriculum

The PSHE Subject Leader is responsible for implementing, resourcing and maintaining the programme. Content and delivery are in line with County policy.

Every effort should be made to ensure that the programme is appropriate to the age and experience of the pupils.

A variety of activities and teaching strategies are used to meet the needs of vulnerable pupils, those with SEND, and pupils from different cultural backgrounds.

Aims

- To create a positive climate in which teaching and learning take place where pupils feel comfortable to discuss their perceptions of drug use.
- To help raise and maintain pupil self-esteem to develop knowledge and understanding of drugs and medicines and how they are used/misused.
- To provide a variety of learning experiences encouraging the development of personal skills and the exploration of values and attitudes.
- To develop decision making and risk assessment skills.
- To enable pupils to recognise positive and negative influences.

- To encourage pupils to develop healthy lifestyles.
- To use 'active' teaching and learning methods which are predominantly pupil centred.

Content

Drug education in school is taught predominantly through the PSHE programme and the statutory elements of the National Curriculum Science Order.

Methodology & Resources

A variety of teaching methods, including 'Circle Time', enquiry and group problem solving, are used to involve all pupils in active learning, building on what they already know. The teaching is inclusive, ensuring that every pupil succeeds within a culture of high expectations.

Drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Ground rules are established and cover issues such as teachers' and pupils' right to privacy and respect, and the boundaries of discussion

Visitors & outside Agencies

Where appropriate, visitors are used as part of our Drug Education programme. They work alongside teachers, supporting the planned learning experiences. All visitors are expected to read this policy and the school's confidentiality policy, prior to working with pupils.

Confidentiality & the Classroom

The school's confidentiality statement is clear and agreed by Governors.

If a pupil's safety is considered under threat the School's Safeguarding Procedures are followed (refer to school policy).

The following approach has been adopted to ensure that sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupils' rights and needs.

- Pupils are made aware of the boundaries of confidence before disclosures are made.
- Staff never offer absolute confidentiality as they are obliged to share information relating to abuse in line with child protection procedures.
- There is no legal requirement for staff to disclose information relating to pupil drug use although parents will normally be contacted, and other agencies may be involved where appropriate.
- Visitors contributing to the curriculum work to the school policy.
- Professionals working with young people outside school comply with agency guidelines and boundaries
- When considering the involvement of other agencies, the implications for all parties should be carefully considered.
- All situations are accurately recorded on CPOMs, including the school responses and monitoring of pupil progress;.

Substance - related incidents

The management of drug-related situations should be co-ordinated through the Head teacher.

The following are regarded as drugs incidents:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- a pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- a pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- a pupil is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- a pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- a staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- a pupil discloses that they or a family member are misusing drugs

If drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises, they should immediately inform a member of staff, who will inform a senior member of staff. The member of the SLT will then inform the police. NB: The police are informed of ALL drugs incidents

The drugs will be moved to a safe area and securely stored until the police advise school what to do with them.

If necessary, the school will liaise with the Local Authority Public Health Department regarding the disposal of sharp objects.

If a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs, the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team will seek consent to either search personal or school property. If it is suspected the person is concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs in their clothing, they are requested to hand over voluntarily any drugs. If they refuse and the school believes that the drug is illegal, then the police are informed. The above searches are conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress in the presence of a second adult witness.

Parents/carers of the child are informed of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

The school adopts the following approach to drug related incidents:

- substance-related incidents are taken seriously.
- each incident is considered individually based on the particular set of circumstances.
- the school balances sanctions, support and education to ensure the wellbeing of the school community.
- a range of responses / sanctions are used to respond to the identified needs of those involved including the support of outside agencies.

When responding to incidents care is taken to avoid overreacting to drug use and under reacting to drug misuse.

Media Enquiries

All media inquiries are channelled through their press office at County Hall (01772 - 533521).

Referral & External Support

Pupils involved in drug related incidents are referred to the School Nurse. If a pupil's safety is at risk, Safeguarding procedures are followed.

The needs of pupils

Following a drug related incident, the wider pastoral needs of pupils and how pupils can access the various internal and external support structures, are addressed through circle-time discussions.

Support for staff and parents

If a member of staff has substance related problems, then the matter is referred to the School Adviser & Chair of Governors Support from the LA will be sought.

Children of drug using parents are identified as an 'at risk' group. However, drug use by parents does not in itself indicate child neglect or abuse. If the school becomes aware of family drug use it contacts an appropriate agency for advice prior to any action. Issues of confidentiality are carefully considered.

Health & Safety

The school addresses the welfare and pastoral needs of the pupils in our care

- potentially hazardous materials (chemicals etc) are stored in the locked Site Supervisor's store
- a safety check of the school premises is carried out on a daily basis
- the school has a high proportion of trained first aiders, appropriate equipment and supplies are readily available for use, being housed in storage cabinet, located in the Computer suite.

For further information, please refer to the School's Health & Safety policy

Staff Training

The school subject leader receives ongoing, appropriate training. This training/learning is cascaded to other staff members, including site managers, lunch-time supervisors, teaching assistants, governors and new members of staff, during staff meetings and INSET days.

Details of relevant courses are made available to staff and relevant INSET provided. The Headteacher ensures that all staff are adequately supported and trained

Headteacher & Governing Body

- The headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, LEA, parents and agencies.
- The headteacher is responsible for the appointment of the teacher with responsibility for drugs education.
- Governors are informed on drugs issues as they affect the school, through the Health and Safety policy.
- As with other matters concerning the direction of the school, the Governing Body has been involved in the development of this policy and is actively involved in responses to this issue.
- The Safeguarding governor will attend case conferences called, or the Governors' disciplinary and disciplinary appeals committees meet to decide actions to take for exclusions resulting from drugs related issues.

Parents

- The school considers support of parents essential and will endeavour to ensure that parents are informed of developments in our programme.
- The school provides parents with information on drugs education through letters and if appropriate information evenings.

The policy will be reviewed biannually.

