



Drugs Education Policy

Approved: May 2023

Review date: May 2026

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to define the responsibility of each individual employed by and/or working on behalf of the school for delivering effective drugs education and responding to any (pupil) drugs related incidents. The school does not condone the use of illegal substances, unauthorised substances, psychoactive substances ('legal highs') or the misuse of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes ('vapes'), glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. In this context, the school will always take action to safeguard pupils' well-being. However, the school reserves the right to apply sanctions to pupils for drugs related incidents in line with the Behaviour Policy.

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. This policy is written with due reference to *Working together to safeguard children* (HM Government, 2019); *Keeping children safe in education* (DfE, 2022); *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused* (HM Government 2015); and *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools* (DfE 2012).

The Government's Drug Strategy 2017 (updated April 2022) ensures that school staff have the information, advice and powers to: provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information; tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation; and work with voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The governors will ensure that:

- a Drugs Policy is produced and reviewed every three years
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is appointed, trained and supported to advise other professionals in the school to recognise the needs of children, including signs of possible drugs misuse; and to refer any concerns such that appropriate action can be taken
- they receive feedback from designated staff on drugs related incidents/issues, giving due regard to confidentiality
- the school contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance and PSCP procedures
- pupils are taught about drugs and their impact through appropriate teaching and learning opportunities
- staff and volunteers receive sufficient time to fulfil effectively their child welfare, behaviour management and related teaching responsibilities

The Deputy Headteacher (i/c Safeguarding) will ensure that:

- the Drugs Policy is communicated to all staff and others requiring the information
- procedures for responding to drugs related incidents are reviewed frequently and reflect best practice for educational settings
- staff and volunteers receive regular training appropriate to their role
- records are kept of all relevant drugs related incidents and concerns with due regard to confidentiality and safeguarding procedures
- referrals to other agencies are made and followed up, as appropriate
- the Headteacher and Governing Body are informed promptly of any issues or concerns relating to drugs misuse, as appropriate
- related information is collated and shared with the Governing Body such that the impact of this policy and its related practices can be evaluated
- parents/carers and pupils receive timely and appropriate guidance and support (including external agency referrals) as required

The Head of Personal Development Learning (PDL) will ensure that:

- the personal development/PSHE curriculum provides pupils with the opportunity to learn about drugs in the context of the law and keeping themselves and others safe and healthy; and to develop the skills required to make sensible and informed choices for themselves
- parents/carers are informed of the drugs education programme of study and have the opportunity to contribute their ideas to its on-going evaluation
- staff teaching drugs education are provided with appropriate support, plans and resources to deliver drugs education effectively
- the quality of teaching, learning and assessment of drugs education is monitored and reviewed in line with school procedures, including through lesson observation
- appropriate expertise and experience from outside of school is sought to enrich the delivery of this area of the curriculum, e.g. visiting speakers from other agencies
- staff and pupils are directed to appropriate external agencies from which further information and additional support may be accessed, e.g. 'Frank', Early Help, School Nurse, CAMHS

The Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers, including headteachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

All school staff and volunteers have a responsibility to:

- identify children who may be directly at risk from the use of drugs or from related factors such as the use of drugs by a family member; all staff and volunteers then have a responsibility to take appropriate action, referring to the DSL as needed
- be aware of the Drugs Policy (and its appendices) and systems within the school which support its effective implementation
- engage with relevant training

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Springfield policies/procedures:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Medical Conditions

Equality Objective compliant



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY – APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - DRUG EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The school will take a positive, open approach to our drug education provision which will contribute to the healthy lifestyle sought for our pupils. Parental support will be encouraged through opportunities at meetings and through correspondence to comment on the drug education programme and to be kept informed on its progress and development.

Aim

The aim of drug education is to enable young people to resist using illegal drugs, cigarettes/'vapes' and 'legal highs' and to develop a sensible approach to alcohol as they become adults. Also for staff, parents and pupils to become aware of local support services.

Objectives

- To identify pupils' existing knowledge, liaising with feeder schools, to determine a suitable starting point
- To present information in an objective, balanced and sensitive way set in a framework of moral values
- To understand the valuable role of medicines
- To explore issues relating to use and misuse of substances/drugs including cigarettes/'vapes', alcohol and solvent abuse
- To explain and clarify the law on drug misuse
- To help pupils understand the importance of respecting themselves and others
- To help pupils understand the negative impacts of substance/drug misuse

DELIVERY OF PROGRAMME

The school is required to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of its pupils and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Elements of our Drug Education Programme are delivered throughout all year groups and in particular during years 8, 10 and 11. Focus Days and the Year 8 PSHE team deliver a programme; in Year 11 drug education is an integral part of Health Education lessons in the Personal Development Learning programme. Teaching about drugs is matched to the age, maturity and particular needs of pupils. The programme will include the link between drug use and other health-related issues.

Pupils will have opportunities to:

- Learn about the 'latest trends' regarding substance misuse
- explore attitudes and values around misuse
- become aware of peer pressure
- develop assertiveness skills

- consider the consequences of risk-taking
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- evaluate media messages on drug use

In order for the programme to be successful Springfield School believes:

- Effective strategies can reduce misuse of drugs
- Co-ordination between organisations helps to promote consistency of approach
- The most vulnerable groups should be identified for appropriate early intervention
- The risk factors of drug misuse are often related and are more significant in combination

Resources are available for parents to review. In selecting resources, careful consideration is given to their suitability. There is in close liaison with the LA's Drug and Alcohol and Support Service (DASS) who advise the school and support young people.

To ensure the best experience for our pupils the lesson activities delivered by outside agencies are regularly reviewed. Teachers will be present when visitors are working with a class unless their absence has been agreed with a member of the senior leadership team.

National Curriculum Science contributes to the teaching about drugs awareness and the impact of drug/substance misuse.

Equal Opportunities - all pupils have equal access to the Drugs Education Programme. Lesson content and vocabulary will be made accessible to pupils of all abilities and support offered to those whose first language is not English.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Drug prevention is seen as a whole-school issue and all staff - both teaching and non-teaching - have a part to play.

If any teacher is concerned that a pupil may be at risk from misuse of drugs, he or she must report that concern to the Deputy Headteacher (i/c Safeguarding) or another member of SLT immediately.

Pupils need to understand that neither staff nor visitors can offer a guarantee of confidentiality, given the seriousness of drug misuse. However, a teacher or visitor will always tell the pupil what information might be passed on to either parents or the designated member of staff of any action which might be taken. This is part of the school's child protection and safeguarding procedures. Support will be offered by the Pastoral Team and Drug Advisory Agencies such as DASS. Pupils may access information about drugs and agencies offering support from the Head of Personal Development Learning, the school's website, information leaflets and notice-boards.

In all appropriate incidents, parents of pupils involved will be informed as soon as possible. Parents will also be offered support with the pupils through recommendations to voluntary drug counselling where necessary.

The school recognises the vital role that parents have to play in identifying initial misuse and in preventing re-offending and restoration of a healthy lifestyle. The active support of parents will be sought both for the individual pupils and for the school's response to any incident.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Policy documents to be made available to all staff via the school's website. Updates will be supplied in the same way. Key issues/updates to be brought to staff briefings. New staff under the normal induction process will be briefed on the policy, programme and guidelines.

Staff may identify relevant CPD (e.g. Health Education courses) of interest to them, applying in the usual way. Staff will be given update training and briefings as applicable/required. Outside visitors are invited in to update staff on drug related issues.

It is our aim to provide INSET on the delivery of the programme, including:

- professional responsibilities
- legal implications
- role of visitors/outside agencies
- first aid and coping with emergencies
- an update of the current local situation

APPENDIX 2 - MANAGING DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

Definition: In the context of the Drugs Policy, drug-related incidents will relate to:

- a) illegal substances, including all those listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- b) misuse of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes ('vapes'), glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines
- c) 'use' in this policy covers the possession or supply of substances in breach of the policy

DRUG INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

In recognition of the serious nature of such incidents, a senior leader will be responsible for overseeing the management of drugs related incidents with the year teams.

SCHOOL'S JURISDICTION

The Drugs Policy will apply in the school and to pupils during travel to and from school, while in school uniform and all members of the school community on site and on school visits.

REGULATIONS

- Smoking: Pupils must not bring cigarettes, including electronic cigarettes ('vapes'), into school. Smoking is not permitted on the school site.
- Alcohol: Alcohol must not be brought into school. Pupils must not consume alcohol prior to arrival at school or a school function.
- Other Substances: Under no circumstances will the use of illegal drugs or misuse of glue, solvents, 'legal highs', prescribed or over-the-counter medicines be tolerated.

Use of any of the substances defined, in breach of this policy, will result in disciplinary proceedings in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

FINDING SUBSTANCES

Staff handling any substance or paraphernalia should use gloves at all times for their own protection. Any substance suspected of being illegal, harmful or deserving of investigation should be removed, in the presence of a witness, and passed to the Deputy Headteacher (i/c Safeguarding) for safe-keeping. The Police will be informed to enable the identification of the substance. If a substance is retrieved the following procedure is to be carried out:

- Date and time of find/retrieval and location
- Size and appearance of substance – take a photo if possible
- The name(s) of those concerned
- Action taken

In addition, staff should follow the student search guidance as outlined in the school's behaviour policy and appendices.

Pupils' parents will usually be informed of such incidents and the action taken. In some cases Child Protection issues may need consideration and referral to MASH via an inter-agency contact form (IACF)

PARAPHERNALIA

Any equipment or drug paraphernalia discovered must be handled with care. Incidents will be recorded as above. Needles and syringes should be placed in a rigid, secure container (yellow sharps box) for collection by the appropriate service. Staff should use plastic gloves (not suitable for needles) available from the Welfare Office, Caretaker, Year Offices and the Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour)

SEARCHING

Storage areas, including lockers, are the property of the school. The Headteacher or a member of SLT may authorise a search of these if it is deemed necessary. Such searches will be carried out in accordance with the guidance outlined in the school's behaviour policy and appendices.

REFERRING DRUG MISUSE

If an individual is found in possession of an illegal substance the Police will be informed. Under no circumstances should the pupil be left alone.

In emergency situations arising from a drug-related incident, the wellbeing of the pupil is paramount, in all cases:

- Separate the pupil from the rest of the group.
- Decide and implement the next best step in terms of pupil welfare - alert the Deputy Headteacher (i/c Safeguarding) and, if required, the School Nurse.
- Staff must not discuss incident/issues with pupils who may have witnessed or been alerted.

SANCTIONS

The school has a range of disciplinary sanctions up to and including permanent exclusion which may be used for individuals who offend against this policy. However, the policy will be applied in such a way as to support the offender where practicable, as well as to safeguard the well-being of other members of the school community. The school will co-operate with the police and will notify them when individuals are found using drugs within the definitions adopted in this policy.

- a) Evidence supporting an intention to supply will normally result in a permanent exclusion.
- b) Possession/use of a classified substance on site or in uniform will normally result in an exclusion.
- c) A repeat offence will normally result in permanent exclusion.

CONDITIONS OF RE-ADMISSION FOLLOWING EXCLUSION FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENT

- i. Pupil to be referred to Portsmouth Drug and Alcohol Support Service (DASS)
- ii. Pupil to agree to be searched whenever the school requires it
- iii. Pupil agrees to co-operate in any future investigation of drug related issues
- iv. An appropriate individual risk assessment is generated and signed by pupil and parent/carer

RECORDS OF INFORMATION

Any member of staff who has information relating to drug use/misuse will pass it to the Deputy Headteacher (i/c Safeguarding). An assessment of the quality of that information will be made to decide on the action taken. Information that is assessed as reliable, relevant and accurate, may be exchanged with other agencies, including the police.

SMOKING

- Records of smoking offences (including e-cigarettes/'vapes') should be kept by Head of Achievement via the Classcharts system
- Suitable punishments will be administered by the pupil's Head of Achievement, this will include a 90 minute detention but could also lead to internal isolation if deemed persistent. Support and help will be offered/signposted by staff and parents will be contacted
- Confiscated cigarettes and e-cigarettes/'vapes' will be destroyed in all cases

APPENDIX 3 - RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

An emergency requires an immediate assessment of the situation. The first priority must be to ensure the safety of the individual(s) concerned.

Drug-related incidents may result in intoxication, physical collapse or unconsciousness. An ambulance should be called in cases of acute intoxication, collapse or unconsciousness.