



Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Sutton Courtenay CE Primary School

Approved by the Local Governing Body: 2nd October 2023

Review date: October 2026

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Aims and vision

It is our school vision that children develop strong foundations on which to build their lives through our school values and love for one another. Our values underpin all aspects of our behaviour management in school and our community.

Rules and values

Our three school rules are the same as our school values:

- Be ready
- Be respectful
- Be responsible

Every Child Matters

At the heart of this policy is Every Child Matters. Every child in our school has the right to be healthy, enjoy and achieve, achieve economic well-being, make a contribution and stay safe.

We aim to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which children are enabled to develop educationally, spiritually and personally. We aim to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future lives. This drug and alcohol policy has been written in accordance with our school values and links directly with other relevant policies e.g. Child Protection, Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and the Behaviour Management Policies.

Rationale

It is our aim to prepare children for life in a world where a wide range of drug and alcohol exist. Clearly some drugs have beneficial effects, but children must begin to be aware also that every drug is potentially harmful. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to make informed choices, staff and children need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Aims of the policy

1. To support the school's efforts to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff
2. To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
3. To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
4. To develop a clear whole school approach to drug and alcohol education in the contexts of the curriculum of the school

Parental involvement

The wishes of parents and carers are always carefully considered. We deliver drug and alcohol education through our PSHCE scheme of work, which is available to see on our website.

Parents/carers are welcome to come to the school and talk with us about any concerns or questions they may have. Parents/carers are routinely contacted as soon as the school has suspicion or evidence of involvement with children in possession of unauthorised drugs or misuse of authorised drugs, alcohol or solvents.

Training for staff

We believe that drug awareness is useful for every member of staff, including governors and support staff. We are able to offer specific training as well as support for staff who are teaching drug and alcohol education within the Personal Development schemes of work.

Drug and alcohol education principles

1) What we provide

Drug and alcohol education in our school aims to equip children with the right age appropriate knowledge, skills and understanding to make healthy and informed choices. Through the school's Personal Development programme, children explore a range of attitudes towards drug and alcohol use and develop and practise decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age of experience of our pupils. This happens through the curriculum in Personal Development lessons and through occasional stand-alone sessions.

2) Timing

We provide all children with drug and alcohol education as an integral part of our PSHCE curriculum. Drug and alcohol education is also delivered through cross-curricular links with the science curriculum and other subjects where appropriate.

3) Teaching and Learning methods

Teaching is based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs of children. Personal Development lessons often involve discussion and consideration of different case studies to ensure children have the opportunity to understand the issues more fully. Sessions will be delivered by staff who have received appropriate training. The programme is evaluated on a regular basis through recorded pupil voice feedback and staff discussions,

Drugs or alcohol on school premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, out buildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

1) Medicines - The School has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines which follows statutory guidelines and that must be followed for everyone's safety.

2) Alcohol - No alcohol will be consumed during the course of the school day. Parents and visitors who are suspected to be under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school – If there are any concerns about the behaviour of parents who are suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, the school will contact the police.

3) Smoking - The school premises are a no smoking area at all times for every member of the community, including visitors and contractors.

4) E Cigarettes / "Vaping" - All forms of e-cigarettes are banned from the school site and the same sanctions will apply to the use of e-cigarettes on and off the school site as apply to smoking cigarettes.

5) Illegal drugs - No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought into or used on school premises.

6) Solvents - The school will ensure that any potentially hazardous substances are stored safely.

Responses to drug and alcohol related incidents

A drug and alcohol related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs or alcohol, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs or alcohol by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs or alcohol by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs or alcohol on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug and alcohol use
- Rumours of parents, staff or pupils using drug and / or alcohol
- Reports of parents, staff or pupils using drugs and / or alcohol

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard of drug related incidents and in responding to incidents: when appropriate searches will be made.

Each case will be assessed, and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident. We work very closely with the police and children's services on all drug and alcohol related matters.

We consider the safety and welfare of our pupils as paramount. Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance and/or related problems.