



Redesdale Primary School

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy

Policy reviewed:	October 2023
Policy review date:	October 2025



Redesdale Primary School

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INTRODUCTION

Redesdale Primary School is committed to the health and safety of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will prohibit the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents and prescribed and over the counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.
- develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

TERMINOLOGY

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also
- volatile substances giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled;
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

REDESDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL STATEMENT

Redesdale Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable. We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

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 school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the wellbeing of its pupils. Parents and carers will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Governing Body will:

- designate a governor with specific responsibility for drugs education;
- establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- support the Headteacher in following these guidelines;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the Headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusion.

OBJECTIVES OF DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others action.

It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;

- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following DfE guidelines and with agreement by governors and staff.

DRUGS EDUCATION

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE/ RHE (Relationships and Health Education), RE and PE. 'Drugs, tobacco and alcohol' form part of the statutory guidance outlined in the DfE Guidance for schools on Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.

At Key Stage 1, pupils will be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.

At Key Stage 2, children will be introduced to the fact that, whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They will also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

The drug education programme provides various opportunities for pupils:

- They can explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- They can practise decision making skills.
- They can become aware of peer pressure.
- They can develop assertiveness skills.
- They can consider the consequences of risk taking.
- They can learn how to access sources of help and information.
- They can emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- They can evaluate media messages on drug use.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible, the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class.

We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs

may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes, a Class Teacher may seek support from another health professional. In teaching this course, we follow the DfE and Local Authority guidelines.

The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or by the Local Authority. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

DRUGS AT SCHOOL

Pupils may not bring prescribed medication into school. Parents may visit the school in the morning to bring and prescribed medication themselves. Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container.

Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the medicine cabinet located in the School Office. Solvents and other hazardous chemicals are stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based fluids, i.e. Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Alcohol to be raffled at community or parents' events is always stored securely beforehand. Raffle prizes which include alcohol will not be given to children and will only be handed to adults over the age of 18.

The consumption of alcohol or the selling of alcohol is not permitted anywhere on the school site.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

There are non-negotiable arrangements and procedures concerning the managing of drug-related issues.

Medicines - The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please see RPS Policy for Managing Medicines in Schools and Administration of Medicines Policy for further details.

Alcohol - No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

Tobacco and Vaping - Smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere on the school site. Pupils are not permitted to bring smoking materials to school, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on

school premises, they will be confiscated. The school also includes the use of e-cigarettes and vapes within this category and treat them equally with traditional forms of smoking. They are not permitted on the school site.

Solvents - The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their learning. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (the only exception permitted is aerosol Ventolin or any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored securely).

Illegal Drugs - No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought onto, or used on, the school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community, regular checks are made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items, on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours or reports of drug possession, supply or use.

In the event of any of the above incidents, the Headteacher should be informed immediately.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious. Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm, where possible.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances. Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, the Headteacher or School Staff are permitted to carry out a personal search in line with the DfE Advice [‘Searching, screening and confiscation’ July 2022](#).

The Headteacher will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally. A full record will be made of any incident.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents about our 'Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy';
- share with parents the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures by contacting Front Door, and possibly the involvement of the police.

STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

All staff need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education and be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The School and Governing Body will review the Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy every two years.

Links with other policies:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Policy for Managing Medicines in Schools

Administration of Medicines Policy

PSHE/RSHE Policy

Further guidance

- Dfe Statutory Guidance - [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education.](#)
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for Local Authorities, Headteachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf
- Frank service - <http://www.talktofrank.com/drugs-a-z> tel:03001236600
- PROPS - support for families living with drug or alcohol misuse (0191 226 3440 or 07791246049) [PROPS - Family Recovery Service](#)
- NHS Drug Addiction: getting help [Drug addiction: getting help - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)