

Willoughby Primary  
School  
**'Learning for Life'**



**Drug Education Policy &  
The Management of Drug-related Incidents**

Reviewed 14/1/2015 24/1/18 Jan 2021

Next Review Jan 2024 Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

**Context**

*Schools have an important role to play in helping them to deliver the government's National Drugs Strategy - Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain (HMSO 1998). This includes helping young people to resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society - Drug Alcohol & Tobacco Education (QCA 2003). The strategy aims to reduce the harm that drugs cause to society and to prevent today's young people from becoming tomorrow's problematic drug users.*

The school is committed to a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances) by pupils, staff or visitors, nor the illegal supply of these substances is condoned. Unauthorised drugs in school are not acceptable and our first concern in managing drugs is to safeguard health.

We are dedicated to the continual development of a 'healthy school'. We wish to work towards this in all aspects of school life, and to provide an environment, ethos and curriculum that support and prepare pupils for making positive, healthy choices in a drug-using world.

This policy is for all staff, pupils, parents/carers, prospective parents/carers, governors, visitors and partner agencies working within school.

This policy will be available on our website.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**The Head Teacher** has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the *Governing Body*, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies and has general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy.

The responsibilities are:

- Policy development and review, including consultation.
- Implementing the policy, and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Ensuring coordination and coherence of drugs education
- Managing drug related incidents and situations
- Ensuring the overall health, welfare and well being of all pupils is taken into account
- Coordinating the planned action to manage medicines in school
- Establishing and coordinating links with external agencies
- Cross-phase liaison with other primary or secondary school to promote a smooth transition
- Accessing and coordinating training and support for staff

(For staff responsibilities see U&S (You & substance use) policy Section 10, Appendices 2,3,5,9. Sections 32, 33, Appendix 12.)

*The nominated Governor with responsibility for drugs issues is: Mrs C Marlow*

The responsibilities are:

- To contribute to generating and updating this policy
- To support the Head Teacher in overseeing the Drug Education curriculum
- To review practice
- To contribute to any case conferences called or appeals against exclusions

### **Staff support and training**

We will ensure that members of staff are regularly consulted as to their training needs and training is provided as appropriate to keep up to date with developments in drug education.

## Definition of Drugs and Boundaries of the Policy

### **Drugs Definition**

This policy encompasses all illicit drugs, volatile substances (solvents), over the counter and prescription medicines, alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs ie caffeine, khat, alkyl nitrites.

This policy will apply to any new trends involving different drugs and substance use, which have the potential to cause harm to young people.

## **School Boundaries**

*The school boundary is defined by the fence at the front of the building and the boundary fence along the sides and the back of the building.*

*The normal times of our school day are: 9:00am-3:30pm.*

This policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but on all school visits, trips and residential visits, including those made outside of normal school hours. It may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

## **Related Policies**

Other policies which relate to the implementation of this policy are:

- *Equal Opportunities policy*
- *Discipline/Behaviour policy*
- *Health & Safety policy*
- *PSHE and Citizenship policy*
- *Child Protection policy*
- *Anti-bullying policy*

## **Drugs Education**

### **a) Context and Curriculum**

#### **Context**

Schools clearly have a crucial role to play in educating young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. *'Every drug, whatever its legal or social status, has the potential to cause physical or other harm. It is this, and the fact that such a wide and changing variety of drugs is commonly and extensively available, that makes it vital for children and young people to receive relevant drug education.'* - Quality Standards in Drug Education - the Right Approach (DrugScope 1999)

#### **Drugs Education in the Curriculum**

Section 351, Education Act 1996, requires every school to provide a balance curriculum which:

- a) Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils
- b) Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

There is a statutory requirement for Drugs Education in the National Curriculum Science (Sept 2013) - Year 6 Programme of study.

As part of its care for the welfare of its pupils this school views Drugs Education as a vital part of the Personal, Social and Health Education of every pupil. We therefore provide Drugs Education as an explicit, planned component of PSHE and Citizenship as well as securing learning opportunities across other curriculum subjects.

Drugs education is taught to each year group, at levels appropriate to the age and needs of the pupils. Specifically Willoughby uses the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programme - 11 one hour sessions, delivered to every child in either Year 5 or 6.

### **b) Aims of Drugs Education**

We aim to enable our pupils to make healthy, informed decisions by increasing their understanding of drugs issues and developing the appropriate skills and attitudes to assist them in making positive choices.

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

- Provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs
- Understand that certain people, with particular medical needs will use medication as part of their every day life and that this is normal for them
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse, exploring the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions
- Raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs
- Explore and clarify attitudes towards drugs, drug use and misuse and drug users, correcting misunderstandings, promoting positive attitudes and challenging harmful ones
- Develop pupils understanding of rules and laws
- Develop and practise the personal and social skills necessary to make informed decisions in a range of social situations and settings
- Develop pupils' self-awareness and self-esteem as this may support them in making positive choices about their health
- Ensure that all members of the school community can identify sources of appropriate personal support
- Ensure relevance for the needs of pupils and the school community.

### **c) Teaching Methods**

Our teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils and will be sensitive to their age and experience. (See Teaching for Learning Policy)

**d) Resources:** We will provide a broad range of high quality, up to date resources, to support teaching and learning.

#### **Support from Visitors:**

The school appreciates the valuable contribution from outside agencies, but recognises that their contribution alone does not constitute a complete Drugs Education Programme.

We believe it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the contributions made by visitors to the classroom reflect our own philosophy and approach to the subject.

Our Drugs Education programme is supported by:

- *Primary Care Health Professionals - school nurse*
- *DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Yr 5/6*
- *National Curriculum for Science*
- *PSHE work*

#### **e) Assessing, Monitoring and Reviewing Drug Education**

We assess the pupil's work in Drug Education by making informal judgements as we observe & listen to the children during lessons. Pupils will have regular opportunities to feedback their views. Informal assessments will be used in the formal evaluation of our Drugs Education Programme.

#### **Storage and Administration of Medicines**

The school acknowledges that parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate. *This will be recorded on returns to the School office*

There is no legal duty, which requires teachers to administer medication; this is a voluntary role. Where administered, a written consent must be obtained from the parent or carer and records kept appropriately. Where necessary, school staff will receive training on specific medical conditions.

Debbie Dornan is responsible for administering medication, its safe storage and the keeping of appropriate records.

Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. *All necessary medication is stored in either the refrigerator in the staff room or the labelled secure cupboard. Additional information will be provided by parents/carers as necessary to cover out of school activities/visits etc. (See U&S policy Section 23 on storage, handling and disposal of medicinal drugs).*

#### **The School Culture and Environment**

This school is committed to promoting a healthy and supportive environment for the benefit of pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and visitors.

We promote positive relationships within our school and between the school and the wider community.

We have also addressed whole school needs in relation to drugs issues and education as identified within the National Healthy School Standard.

We are supported by the Local Healthy Schools' Programme.

We recognise the priorities of whole-school policies and practice that are consistent with the aims of our Drug Education Programme.

**Smoking:**

Smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises and reflects UK law.

**Alcohol:**

The use of alcohol by all members of the school community, including visitors, is also prohibited except for occasional adult functions out of school hours, as agreed by the Governors, Personnel and Pupil Committee. Alcohol for use at the function will be stored in a safe place.

**Solvents:**

In addition to health and safety regulations which keep the school environment safe for all, solvents or other potential intoxicants (such as lighter fuel or aerosols) must not be brought onto the school premises by any pupil. Any incidents involving the supply of solvents or solvent abuse will be dealt with as would any other form of drug misuse. Pupils are discouraged from bringing aerosols in to school or on school trips.

**Illegal drugs:**

This school will not condone or tolerate the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs anywhere on the school premises.

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other drug-using equipment are found discarded in the school premises. These procedures are outlined in the U & S Policy folder.

<b>Consultation</b>
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This policy was developed in consultation with all interested parties. If anyone wishes to raise further issues with the school relating to drugs or drug education, we invite them to do this by contacting school.

We encourage involvement in developing and reviewing this policy and the drug education curriculum. We encourage parents/carers to approach the school to discuss issues or share concerns at any time.

**Key Partner Agencies:**

We have established working relationships with the following local partners: Healthy Schools, School Nurse Service, Inclusion Service, Police.

Our liaison with these partners informs our Policy and Programme Development and our support for pupils and other members of the school community.

## Responding to Drug-related Incidents

The school will consider each drug-related incident or situation individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community.

Any sanctions enforced will reflect the seriousness of the incident and will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions.

After immediate medical needs have been addressed, the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved.

(See U&S policy Sections 11-13, Appendices 2 & 3 on confidentiality, risk assessment, child protection and contacting parents/carers).

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

*'It is an offence for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug.'*

(See U&S policy Sections 14-20 on drugs and the law).

*This school's Linked Community Police Officer is: PCSO Kylie Wimbledon*

This Police Officer will liaise with and advise the school in the event of a suspected criminal offence occurring.

Careful recording of each stage of the management of incidents will be made.

(See U&S policy, Appendix 4.)

All pupils and parents have been made aware of the school's policy.

## Support and Information

We will provide pupils with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drugs issues. This will be through:

### **Information and Support Services**

Up to date information on local drugs support services will be made accessible for all members of the school community. Useful contacts include:

- *FRANK (the national drugs helpline)*
- *New Leaf - smoking cessation service*
- *WAM - support for children affected by someone else's drug use*
- *Face It - support for young people using drugs problematically.*

We recognise that any pupil misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency.

## **Inclusion and Equality**

### **Statement on Inclusion**

We are committed to being inclusive and promoting equality.

### **Vulnerable Children**

We are committed to careful consideration of risk factors for vulnerable children who might be at greater or significant risk of harm and will seek alternative provisions for such pupils where appropriate.

### **Statement on Exclusion**

See Exclusion of Pupils Policy

## **Confidentiality**

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum.

Sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to the rights and needs of individuals.

(See U&S policy, Sections 11-13, Appendices 2&3 for confidentiality and risk assessment.)

## **Responding to the Media**

As drug-related incidents are likely to generate media interest, all members of staff have been advised not to respond to journalists and should refer all enquiries to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher will make a considered response and, if necessary, seek assistance from the Local Authority Press Office.

## **Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

The monitoring of this policy will be ongoing to assess its workability and ensures it remains responsive to current issues.

This policy will be evaluated every 3 years.