



Date Policy Agreed by Governors:		Date Policy to be Reviewed:	
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## Drug Education and Substance Misuse Policy

This policy is an important part of a whole school approach to developing healthy children with high self-esteem, who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. We recognise the increasing drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance.

Hallgate Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, 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.

### Aims and Objectives

Hallgate Primary School believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

The following objectives have been prioritised:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider and / or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practise the skills they need, to avoid misuse of drugs.
- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency;.
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.
- To establish procedures for responding to drug incidents.
- To provide an environment where pupils feel safe in discussing their views / experiences of drug use / misuse.



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.

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

### **Underlying Principles**

We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our RSE and PSHE Curriculum; this is covered within Personal Development. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the children's time at Hallgate, matching their increasing understanding and maturity. Key Stage 1 children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines. Key Stage 2 children should be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

#### **Organisation**

Drug Education is taught at Hallgate Primary School is delivered through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. The responsibility for the provision of drug education is held by the Headteacher and Personal Development Subject Leader.

The Personal Development Subject Leader will, in consultation with staff, develop key stage plans and schemes of working, taking into account the requirements of the National Curriculum, school priorities, local priorities and initiatives, government policies and the needs / maturity of pupils.

The taught curriculum is delivered through Jigsaw sessions; some aspects of drug education will also be addressed in other areas of the curriculum, e.g. within Science. Assessment and recording takes place in line with school policy.

### **Managing Drug Related Incidents**

Staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

#### **Routine arrangements**

- Medicines - The school has a policy and procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.



- Alcohol - No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Headteacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.
- Tobacco - The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times.
- Solvents - The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and children will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Children are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols. (only exception permitted is aerosol ventolin/any other approved medicines)
- Illegal drugs - No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community checks will be made of the site by the site manager to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

### Incidents

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 drug use.

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 well-being of its pupils.

For incidents relating to members of staff, the relevant local authority policies will be followed and advice sought from HR.

### Procedures

#### Medical emergencies

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disoriented, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

#### Hearsay/Rumour

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher(s), who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of the teacher's concerns to be compiled. Where the hearsay evidence



is not supported through further reports or incidents for one school year the evidence will be removed from the records.

### Suspicious Behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

### Finding substances

If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safekeeping. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. A record must be kept to include:

- the date and time of the find or retrieval;
- the size and appearance of the substance;
- the names of those concerned;
- the action taken.

CPoms will be used to log these details, where possible.

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a child, the child's parents must be informed.

### **Searching**

Staff should not search a child's property or person but should try to persuade the child to voluntarily produce the substance by asking to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a child, a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the child is in possession of an illegal substance.

### **Finding Drugs**

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the child is paramount. In all instances:

- separate the child involved from the rest of the group;
- decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare;
- inform parents.

### **Supply of illegal substances**

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.



### **Returning articles which have been confiscated**

Articles confiscated and not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

### **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. There may be times when incidents are logged following our Child Protection Policy and procedures. CPoms is the preferred method of recording, where possible.

### **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a child, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a child chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, particularly when seeking support, this information will not be used against them notwithstanding any illegal / controlled substances. However, action will be taken to ensure that the child comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the child in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the child to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their information may implicate others.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and necessary improvement will be made following review.

The last review took place in **January 2024**.