



School Policy 4b – Substance Misuse

It should be read in conjunction with the overarching policy for **School Discipline / Behaviour Policy**.

The Governors' Committee responsible for this is the Ethos and Pastoral Care Committee.

The person in the school who prepares the text of this policy for the Governors is the Deputy Headteacher. This policy was reviewed in November 2025 and is reviewed annually.

Introduction: SCHOOL STATEMENT

The school cannot condone either the misuse of drugs and alcohol by a member of the school or the illegal supply of these substances. It is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. It acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and its Christian duty to help them look after themselves and others as human beings created in God's image with all the freedom and responsibility which that involves. It will therefore also seek to encourage pupils in need of support to come forward.

Rationale

In response to shared concerns at local and national level, as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, the school has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug and substance and misuse. The school aims to take a pro-active stance on this matter, since health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Development of every pupil.

The aims of this policy are:

To provide accurate information about drugs and substances. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.

- To encourage an understanding of how drugs can be used positively for medical purposes.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. consequences of addictions.
- To help young people resist drug and substance misuse and achieve their full potential in society.
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills, e.g. in decision making.
- To develop and enhance young people's decision making and assertiveness skills.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate support.

Responsibilities

- The Governing Body sets the policy and reviews it regularly.
- The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for its implementation and ensures that all staff dealing with drug and substance issues are adequately trained and supported.
- The Deputy Headteacher oversees the work of staff in liaising with parents and carers, the Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies.

- One of the school's Senior Pastoral Leaders has oversight of the school's PSD programme and acts in this capacity as the member of staff who has general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy and any incidents of substance misuse that may occur; ensuring that any incidents are dealt with according to agreed school procedures.
- Senior Pastoral Leads and Heads of Year are involved in dealing with any incidents which occur and in keeping their year groups informed about school policy and aware of their responsibilities.
- The Head of PSD has the main responsibility for planning, leading and overseeing the teaching of drugs education within the PSD programme.
- All members of staff are expected to be alert to possible occurrences of drug misuse, including instances of smoking or alcohol consumption which are both also prohibited on the school premises, in school time and on school visits.
- All pupils and students are expected to cooperate with this policy and to be responsive to the education and guidance which the school offers in this area.

Principles

Fundamental to our practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation are essential to the successful implementation of this policy. Whilst acknowledging that the number of young people who use and misuse drugs and substances has been rising, it is also important to recognise that most young people are choosing not to do so. Drug and substance education should be provided in the broader context of the teaching of Personal and Social Development. It should take account of the age, sex and cultural/social background of the pupils at which it is targeted. It should aim to involve the parents and encourage them to take an interest. It should be delivered in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug and substance misuse. Active pupil participation should be encouraged with adequate teacher supervision. To maximise its effectiveness, it should be provided at regular intervals throughout the school career in a manner appropriate to the age of the pupils and should draw upon the additional support of outside agencies.

Review, Monitoring and Evaluation

Pastoral and senior leaders will monitor and evaluate this policy within the school, particularly when an incident occurs. Governors will discuss this policy as part of reviewing the Discipline Policy.

Note: VISITORS & OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Before involving visitors in drug and substance education, or any aspect of health education, the following will be considered:

- Does the visitor share the school's values and approach to health education?
- Will the information be impartial?
- Is the contribution from a visitor appropriately planned with preparation and follow up work?
- Is the visitor appropriate for the age and maturity of the year group?
- How much does the visitor cost?
- Does the local authority recommend the visitor?

Visitors will not be left alone with pupils. The teacher needs to be part of the experience so that they can provide appropriate follow up work and to ensure the safety of the pupils.