



Policy Title	DRUGS & ALCOHOL EDUCATION POLICY
Committee responsible	Ethos & Curriculum committee
Last reviewed	September 2023
Next review due	September 2024
Who is governed by this policy	All parents with pupils at the school
Available on website	YES

DRUGS & ALCOHOL EDUCATION POLICY

1. Introduction

Drugs and Alcohol Education is delivered as part of the Statutory Health Education curriculum. This is taught through the Jigsaw PSHE programme (see PSHE policy).

Definition of 'Drugs' – this policy uses the definition that a drug is: *'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'* (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The term 'Drugs' includes:

- all illegal drugs
- all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Effective Drugs and Alcohol Education can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils as they grow up. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The Drugs and Alcohol Education programme at our school reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community

2. Aims:

- to increase the children's awareness of the dangers inherent in the use of any drug
- to increase the children's awareness of drug issues in society
- to enable children to make informed decisions and prepare them for present and future experiences.

3. Context

The drugs and alcohol education programme is integrated into the science and PSHE curriculum.

The grid below shows specific Drugs and Alcohol Education learning intentions for each year group in the 'Healthy Me' Puzzle.

Year Group	Piece Number and Name	Learning Intentions 'Pupils will be able to...'
2	Piece 3 Medicine Safety	understand how medicines work in my body and how important it is to use them safely
3	Piece 3 What Do I Know About Drugs?	feel positive about caring for my body and keeping it healthy tell you my knowledge and attitude towards drugs identify how I feel towards drugs
4	Piece 3 Smoking	understand the facts about smoking and its effects on health, and also some of the reasons some people start to smoke can relate to feelings of shame and guilt and know how to act assertively to resist pressure from myself and others
	Piece 4	understand the facts about alcohol and its effects on health,

	Alcohol	particularly the liver, and also some of the reasons some people drink alcohol
		can relate to feelings of shame and guilt and know how to act assertively to resist pressure from myself and others
5	Piece 1 Smoking	know the health risks of smoking and can tell you how tobacco affects the lungs, liver and heart
		make an informed decision about whether or not I choose to smoke and know how to resist pressure
	Piece 2 Alcohol	know some of the risks with misusing alcohol, including anti-social behaviour, and how it affects the liver and heart
		make an informed decision about whether or not I choose to drink alcohol and know how to resist pressure
6	Piece 2 Drugs	know about different types of drugs and their uses and their effects on the body particularly the liver and heart
		be motivated to find ways to be happy and cope with life's situations without using drugs
	Piece 3 Alcohol	evaluate when alcohol is being used responsibly, anti-socially or being misused
		tell you how I feel about using alcohol when I am older and my reasons for this

4. Working with parents and carers

We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In prompting this objective, we will:

- inform parents/carers about the school's drugs and alcohol education policy and practice
- answer any questions that parents/carers may have about the teaching of this
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs and alcohol education in the school.

Under current legislation schools should enable parents/carers to exercise their right to withdraw their children (until the age of 19) from any school drugs and alcohol education taught outside National Curriculum Science (Education Act 1996). Parents/carers have a legal right to see the school drugs and alcohol education policy and to be given a copy of it (Education Act 1996).

Parents/carers should also be aware that schools are legally required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Drug topics can arise incidentally in other subjects, such as Science, and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.

5. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct drug and alcohol education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved in, or their behaviour indicates they are involved in, drug taking, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection (see Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy). The Headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with other professionals.