

WISBOROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



DRUGS AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION POLICY

Approved by the Headteacher: February 2025
Next review due by: February 2027

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy

This policy sets out the school's approach to drug education and how the school will respond to drug related incidents within the responsibilities of the school. This policy has links with the following school policies: PSHE, The Administration of Medicines and Confidentiality.

Context

By the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' stated that schools had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

At Wisborough Green School, we teach drugs, alcohol and tobacco education as part of our enriched PSHCE curriculum at an age-appropriate level, also ensuring that we meet the needs of our learners.

Policy Aims

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the aims, content, rationale and organisation of the school's Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy to parents, governors and teachers. It is important that this policy has the confidence of our parents, staff and governors.

The purpose of the school's Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education for all stakeholders
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education as part of our curriculum
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

Definition of a drug

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply: "a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave." This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication, legal/illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), volatile substances (see also the school's Health and Safety Policy and COSHH Policy) and all over the counter and prescription medicines.'

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

This school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorized legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits, school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to all stakeholders working in and visiting the school.

Aims of Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education is the provision of 'planned and structured learning opportunities to develop pupils' knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about all drugs; as well as awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle in relation to their own or other's actions.

The aim of teaching children and young people about alcohol and other drugs is to support them in making informed choices, delaying any possible first substance use and preventing the development of harmful patterns of substance use in adulthood. This can impact upon an individual's quality of life and future aspirations. Effective teaching about alcohol and other drugs through PSHE and Science education is one key element of prevention work. However, in order to achieve its aims, this teaching should be implemented as one aspect of a wider whole-school approach..

Objectives of our Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education are to increase pupils' understanding about:

- The risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco (short and long term)
- The laws and rules relating to drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- The impact of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on individuals, relationships, families and communities
- The prevalence of drugs, alcohol and tobacco use
- The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Our drugs, alcohol and tobacco education is embedded within our PSHE curriculum where pupils personal and social skills are developed to help children make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:

- Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- Communicating effectively
- Resisting pressures
- Finding information, help and advice
- Devising problem-solving coping strategies
- Developing self-awareness and self-esteem

Students are also enabled to explore both their own and other's attitudes towards drugs, alcohol and tobacco. They are encouraged to challenge stereotypes and explore media and social influences.

At Wisborough Green Primary School, we teach Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education as set out in this policy.

How is Drugs Education taught and who is responsible for teaching it?

At Wisborough Green Primary School, we teach Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education within our enriched PSHE curriculum.

Our PSHE and RSE curriculum gives children the knowledge to help them understand how they are developing both socially and personally and investigate wider moral, social and cultural issues. Our curriculum allows children to learn about what it takes for children to become good citizens and lead their own rights and responsibilities. At Wisborough Green Primary School, we aim to equip pupils with effective decision-making skills and the ability to calculate risk effectively. Discussion is used as an effective tool to teach PSHE, allowing children time to articulate their thoughts and feelings in an environment that they feel safe to do so.

Every two years, we audit our PSHCE and RSE curriculum (including Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education) to make sure that our curriculum adapts to the evolving needs of our students. A consultation process will take place with the children, parents and teachers to gain further insight into the children's developing needs.

At our school, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education is integrated into our Health and Wellbeing Strand of PSHE Education which can be found in the PSHE Overview document. This strand is taught during the Summer Term.

Children at Wisborough Green School are taught about drugs, alcohol and tobacco at an age-appropriate level.

Early Years learn about rules, keeping safe and self-care. Their communication skills and self-awareness are also developed.

Key Stage 1 learn about rules, risks and ways of keeping safe. They learn about the role of drugs as medicines and that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.

Key Stage 2 learn about the effects on the human body of alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health. They also learn about which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks. They also learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and develop an understanding that pressure to behave in an unacceptable way can come from a variety of sources and basic techniques to resist this pressure.

Subject Content

The learning objectives for each year group can be found on both our End of Year Group Expectations and PSHE Overview documents.

Teaching Methods

As within all subject areas, staff will adopt appropriate teaching methods to teach focus areas and planning will consider the range of needs of all our pupils including those with social,

emotional and mental health needs, special educational needs or religious backgrounds. Teaching methods may include: circle time, role play, group work, discussions, looking at videos and books, time to talk boxes and our worry monsters.

Monitoring and Assessment

The delivery of drugs education is monitored by the PSHCE coordinator, Mrs Casimiro through planning scrutinies, surveys, learning walks, pupil interviews etc. Pupil's progress in drugs education is also monitored by class teachers as part of our own assessment systems.

Teachers at Wisborough Green Primary school will have the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in PSHCE and Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education as for other curriculum areas therefore assessment for learning, and of learning will be central to any education provision.

- Pupils will have opportunities to reflect on their learning and its implications for their lives.
- Teachers will know that learning has taken place, be able to demonstrate progress and identify future learning needs.
- Assessment will allow the leadership team, parents, governors and school inspectors to see the impact on pupils and the whole school of the PSHE curriculum.

Safeguarding

The school follows the guidelines in the West Sussex Child Protection Procedures manual (this is available on request).

Confidentiality

A child's confidentiality will be maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If a member of staff believes that a child is at risk, she/he will consult the Designated Safeguarding Lead and appropriate authorities.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later. Teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the Head teacher if necessary.

Use of visitors

On occasion, resource people may be involved in supporting the school-based drugs education programme. These may include parents, school nurse, religious or health professionals. Parents will be informed of their involvement prior to the visit.

Complaints

Any matters of concern about the implementation of the Drugs Education Policy should be referred in the first instance to the Head teacher who may, if appropriate, inform the Chairman of Governors.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

- The governing board will approve the Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy.
- The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

The headteacher

- The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that drugs, alcohol and tobacco education within PSHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of SRE.
- The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy, its implementation, and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies in the event of a drug-related incident. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from relevant agencies.

PSHE/RSHE leads are responsible for:

- Ensuring that drugs, alcohol and tobacco education is taught consistently within the PSHE curriculum.
- Ensuring that the curriculum content is age appropriate.
- Reviewing whether the taught curriculum meets the needs of our students.
- The co-ordinator together with the Head Teacher has a responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. The PSHE coordinator is Annalisa Casimiro.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering drugs, alcohol and tobacco education in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes towards drugs, alcohol and tobacco education
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Staff who have concerns about teaching drugs, alcohol and tobacco education are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.
- All staff will be responsible for teaching their class the agreed curriculum for PSHE (including drugs, alcohol and tobacco education).
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching drugs, alcohol and tobacco education.

Pupils

- Pupils are expected to engage fully during PSHE and, when discussing issues related to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents and Carers

- Parents and carers are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme. They are responsible for ensuring that guidelines relating to medication in school are followed (see Administration of Medicines Policy).
- Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in potential harm to their child. This can be a very sensitive issue for parents, and therefore, it will be handled with care and consideration. The Head Teacher will consider if there are any special circumstances, which may temper this right. The child protection service may be contacted in the first instance and advice sought