



Anderton Primary School
Drug Education Policy



In this policy, the term 'drug' is used to include:

- illegal substances
- substances which are legal but can be misused
- some of these substances would not be acceptable for possession and use by pupils on school premises e.g. alcohol and tobacco
- other substances, for example, glue, solvents and the over-the-counter medicines, may be on school premises provided this is for their proper, intended purpose.

RATIONALE

This school is committed to the health and safety of its children and staff and will act to safeguard their well-being. We believe that every child, whatever their background or circumstances, should have the support they need to be healthy, stay safe and make informed and sensible life-style choices.

School will actively discourage the use of illegal substances and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines.

The Head teacher is the member of staff responsible for the management of drug education throughout the school. There is a Drug Education folder called "Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Curriculum Guidance for Schools" containing relevant information and details of support agencies.

DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

AIMS:

- to enable children to become accurately informed of the effects, good or bad, of drugs on health, and make healthy informed choices.
- to enable children to experience up to date coverage of the risks and legal aspects of drug taking.
- to give children the opportunity to develop their abilities to communicate their concerns and take responsible decisions.



OBJECTIVES

To work towards ensuring that this policy is both accepted and embraced by

- governors
- leadership team
- teachers and support staff
- pupils
- parents
- the wider school community

To provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse
- Practise decision making skills
- Become aware of peer pressure
- Develop assertiveness skills
- Consider the consequences of risk taking
- Learn how to access sources of help and information
- Emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- Evaluate media messages on drug use

CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNING

Key drug education messages will be taught within Science and PSHE. They will also be delivered through assemblies and theme days/ weeks.

- Appropriate learning experiences are planned to meet the needs of all the pupils in the class, including those with special educational needs or the gifted and talented.
- Learning experiences draw on pupils own experiences or existing knowledge and provide a range of opportunities for pupils to learn, practise and demonstrate skills, attitudes, knowledge and understanding.
- Time is given for pupils to reflect, consolidate and apply their learning
- Staff will have opportunities to update their own expertise through courses, Inset and information from the Subject Leader.



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- Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy (eg the Life Bus).
- **Age 5 - 7 children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines**
- **Age 7 - 11 children should be introduced to the fact that while 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**

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of pupils in Drug Education is ongoing through circle time, practical and written activities in lessons and observations of how pupils work individually in pairs and in groups.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of all its children.

Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drug education programme.

All incidents or concerns will be logged by the head teacher or her representative. Parents will also be informed, and provisions made for any outside professional help, such as police officers or health professionals. Incidents related to an abuse case will be reported appropriately.

Where illegal substances are involved, outside agencies will automatically be informed.

If a child voluntarily discloses information about drug abuse it is important to:

- Not over re-act
- Listen to the child's point of view
- Not jump to conclusions
- Document any concerns on CPOMs

Staff should not guarantee confidentiality as they may have to inform other staff or the police/social services. Staff should follow the school safeguarding procedures.



MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

'In school' is taken to mean on school premises, including buildings and grounds. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips.

Hearsay

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the designated member of staff who should record the matter as hearsay evidence. This will enable a record to be compiled of teachers' concerns and, where necessary, help and support offered to the child. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one calendar 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/Equipment

If a harmful and/or illegal substance is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe-keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known, or suspected to be illegal, the police must be informed.

If a substance is found on a child, the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

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

If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered, the items should be handled with care. The incident should be recorded and, in the case of items such as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person.

If any substance/equipment is found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, therefore the head teacher or their representative may authorise a search of these if there is a



reasonable suspicion. The search must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named child if this applies. Staff should not search a child's property or person but should try to persuade the child to voluntarily produce the substance by asking him/her to turn out his/her pockets or bag unless a search has been agreed with a parent or guardian due to a breach of school policies. If it is absolutely necessary to search a child, a police officer will be required and parents must be 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 Drug Misuse

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
- Document on CPOMs

Supplying 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 articles 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.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

All staff need to:

- understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education.
- be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.



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MEDICINES

Certain prescribed medicines are allowed in school. If a child is on long term prescription medication, a form of consent for the administration of this medicine by the class teacher or Head teacher is needed. Some children may need prescription medication (including antibiotics) for a short period of time after recovering from an illness; in this case a consent form will also need to be completed by the parent (see attached). Short term medication may be administered by the parents/parent representative at the required time if they so wish.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed in line with the School Improvement Plan, or sooner in the event of any changes in legislation.

J Dervish (PSHE Subject Leader)
January 2025

Next review date: January 2028



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**Administration of Medicines/Treatment
Form of Consent**

Child's Name

Class

I agree to members of staff administering medicines, providing treatment to my child as directed below.

Signed (Parent)

Date

Name of medicines/ Dose Frequency/Times

Special Instructions

Allergies

Other prescribed medicines child takes at home