#

# WHITTAKER MOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

#  Policy on Drug Education

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**Introduction**

The policy has been written in line with DfE guidance and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools document and has been disseminated, reviewed and approved by all staff, governors and the Head Teacher. This document and other connected PSHE policies, such as the Behaviour, Healthy schools and Safeguarding policies can be found on the staff server and the school website.

**Purpose**

As part of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education, Drug Education at our school is concerned with imparting knowledge and understanding of drugs issues in order that children within our school can make informed, independent and confident choices. They need to be aware of both the dangers of drug abuse and the fact that some drugs are vital for a healthy life, as in the case of a diabetic. Our school strives to educate and empower every pupil to live a healthy lifestyle; we have a duty to teach children about a wide range of lifestyle choices and issues. As such this policy links to many of the policies listed in the introduction and should not be seen as separate, but cross referenced by those working at our school.

**Aims**

**To value each child**

* To provide a balanced programme of accurate up to date information, appropriate to their age and understanding.

**To provide a happy, stimulating and secure environment**

* To teach drug issues with a non-threatening and non-judgemental approach.

**To enable each child to reach his/her full potential**

* To provoke children’s thoughts on issues giving consideration to the wide range of attitudes towards drugs.

**To offer equality of opportunity**

* To ensure all children participate regardless of gender, physical abilities, race or sexuality.

**To encourage respect in all areas**

* To encourage children to have the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe
* To respect their own bodies.

**To develop and encourage the desire to learn**

* To talk and act confidently about issues.

**To promote independence and responsibility**

* To make decisions based on information.
* To create situations e.g. role-play.
* To use the children’s own examples and experiences of medicines.
* To discuss the misuse of medicines and other substances at an age-related level.

**Policy Statements**

**The School’s Responsibility**

The first concern of the school in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school’s community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils.

**Tobacco**

The school is a non-smoking environment. This includes E-Cigarettes and Vapes

**Alcohol**

Alcohol is not allowed on the school premises at any time.

**Medicines**

The school follows Rochdale LA guidelines on the management of medicines in school. All staff are aware of the procedures for managing medicines in school, to ensure the safety of all pupils and also have access to the ‘Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings’ document. Staff have regular training from outside professionals, on the specific medical conditions of pupils in their care, such as diabetes and severe allergies requiring an Epi-Pen, to enable them to confidently and correctly deal with medical issues in school. Further details of how the school deals with medicines can be found in the Medical Needs Policy.

**Illegal, Illicit Drugs and Solvents**

This school does not and will not condone the use, misuse, preparation or supply of any illegal, illicit or legal substance which is likely to damage health, on any part of the school premises by any member of the school community.

**Role of the co-ordinator**

The current PSHE Developer with responsibility for the Drugs Policy is out Assistant Head teacher, Kate Mellor. She works closely with other staff, including the Head and Deputy. The Head teacher is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy and Assistant Head teachers are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. All three work together to:

* Develop, write and review the policy and scheme of work within PSHE.
* Lead staff development.
* Attend appropriate courses.
* Identify training needs.
* Maintain and order equipment.
* Monitor and evaluate the teaching of Drug Education at Whittaker Moss.

The Head and Deputy reserve the right to search pupils suspected of possessing drugs and the Local Authority procedure is followed for this.

**Staff Support and Training**

Staff receive drug awareness training when necessary, in consultation with the school nurse and outside agencies. Staff also have access to the LA guidance, other connected policies and ‘Managing Medicines in Schools’ document mentioned earlier in this document.

**Management of drugs at school and on trips**

The school follows the LA policy for keeping and administering medicines safely. First aid kits are checked regularly and class kits are always taken on trips. Written parental consent is obtained, before medicine is administered. Staff ensure that parents supply the school with medicines that are in date (any medicines that are out of date are given back to parents to dispose of responsibly.)

**Early Intervention for vulnerable pupils**

Staff work closely together to identify children who may be affected by drug misuse at home and those who are at risk from drug abuse. Staff know the LA agreed protocol for child protection and the Head, Deputy, or Assistant Head contact the relevant agencies as and when required.

**Contacting Parents**

In the event of a pupil being involved in a drug related incident, parents will normally be contacted immediately. However, if the school considers a child to be “at risk” as a result of any disclosure, they reserve the right to involve another outside agency.

Other school policies which this policy is cross referenced to:

* PSHE
* Individual Health Care Plans
* Safer Working Practices
* Medicines
* HRE Policy

**Drug Related Incidents in**

**Schools Summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | InformationOnly | FoundProperty | SimplePossession | PossessionPlus | OtherOffences |
| Key Features | Pupils at risk | Property not linked to a particular person | Facts agreed; certain criteria met | Facts in dispute; certain criteria not met | School community put at risk’ Class A drug; pupils at risk |
| Inform police? | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Will the police need to attend? | Maybe | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Can school deal with matter after contacting police? | Maybe | Yes | Yes | Maybe | No |
| Why would the police need to be involved? | Investigate information on sources of supplies | Disposal of substance | Assist in decision making | Assist school with its enquiry/start joint enquiry | Assist school with its enquiry/start joint enquiry |

**Policy Reviewed: September 2023**