

# **EARLSMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Drug, Alcohol, Vaping and Tobacco Policy**



**SUCCESS *for ALL***

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<b>BOT Ratified</b>	November 2025
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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

At Earlsmead Primary School we encourage all members of our school community to strive to be the best they can be and develop new skills that empower them for life- long learning in order to become confident, valuable, members of society.

We create an inclusive, supportive, safe and challenging environment where all contributions are valued.

Learning is motivating and independence is encouraged hence all become reflective, self-learning team members with a positive sense of wellbeing and a love of learning.

## **OUR VISION**

Working in partnership with children, parents, staff and Governors as a community we will achieve *Success for All* through:

**S**ecuring resilience

**U**nderstanding values and respecting others

**C**ommitting to our learning

**C**ommunity involvement

**E**quality for all

**S**triving to do our very best

**S**etting high expectations

## Aims

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

We aim to provide planned and structured learning opportunities to help children make informed choices about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and provide a curriculum that will enable them to develop and practise their skills, increase knowledge and understanding and consider and debate attitudes towards drugs and drug related issues.

## Statutory Requirements

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities.

We understand that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognize that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. The DfE advises all schools to have an up to date policy.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.

## Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about this policy during its initial stages of development.
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

## Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- PSHE and Citizenship
- Health and Safety
- Behaviour
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs & Managing Medicines in School Policy

## **Definition of Drugs**

This guidance describes drugs as 'a substance people take that changes the way they feel, think or behave.' This refers to legal and illegal drugs:

- Drugs that are illegal (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971).
- Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18 year olds including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents).
- Drugs that are legal to use such as caffeine drinks.
- Over the counter and prescription medicines.

## **Definitions of Other Key Words**

- 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.

## **Delivery of Drug, Alcohol, Vaping and Tobacco Education**

Drug, alcohol and tobacco education is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum.

Drug education in our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.

### **Key Stage 1**

Children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.

### **Key Stage 2**

Children should be introduced to the fact that whilst *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. Vaping will also be introduced.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding, revising topics at regular intervals.
- Explore attitudes and values around drug use and misuse.
- Practise decision making skills, making informed choices.
- Become aware of peer pressure, rehearsing skills to keep themselves safe and be confident with their decision.
- 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.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The **Governing Body** will approve the Drug, Alcohol, **Vaping** and Tobacco policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The **Headteacher** is responsible for ensuring that drug, alcohol and tobacco education is taught consistently across the school. The Headteacher may delegate aspects to the Curriculum Lead, DSL or other staff members.

The **PSHE Leader** will ensure that that the education programme and resources are age appropriate, relevant and up to date.

**Staff** are responsible for:

- Delivering drug, alcohol, vaping and tobacco education in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to drug, alcohol and tobacco education
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching drug, alcohol, vaping and tobacco education. Staff who have concerns about teaching drug, alcohol, **vaping** and tobacco education are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

**Pupils** are expected to engage fully in drug, alcohol, vaping and tobacco education and, when discussing issues related to this, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## **Safeguarding**

During the teaching of the PSHE curriculum, staff will report any concerns to the child protection team and a record will be kept (see safeguarding policy).

These concerns may include:

- Pupil's knowledge not appropriate for their years
- Pupil's disclosing information about themselves, their family or other pupils and their families.
- Teachers are uncomfortable about a particular child and feels that something is not quite right.

## **Assessment, Recording and Monitoring**

Elements of the drug, alcohol, vaping and tobacco education that are part of the Science National Curriculum are assessed in line with the School's policy.

PSHE is assessed through pre/post assessments and throughout using self-assessment and reflection.

Monitoring of the subject is carried out in line with the schools monitoring policy.

## **Incidents involving Drug, Alcohol, Vaping and Tobacco**

Tobacco and Vaping – Earlsmead is a smoke free and vape-free school. Anyone wishing to smoke is required to leave the school premises. **Adults (including parents and visitors) are requested to avoid smoking or vaping directly outside of the school where they may be in view of the children.**

Alcohol – Alcohol is allowed on the school premises for specific out of hours events confirmed by the Headteacher, such as PTA events.

Drugs – Pupils requiring medication during the day need to give their medication to welfare in line with the Medical and Welfare Policy. Staff may keep their personal medication in their classroom in a locked cupboard.

Any drug incidents will be assessed individually to ensure the most appropriate response and action is taken. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may need to take and any sanction will be in line with school procedures. The needs of the child must come first.

## **Incidents and Recommended Procedures**

<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Procedures</b>
Parents collecting pupils under the influence of drugs/alcohol.	Keep the pupil in school – TA to escort them straight to the office. Staff member to call DSL/ DDSL/ HT/ DHT for support. <b>Attempt to arrange collection of child from a secondary contact; inform social worker if the child is currently under welfare supervision of any kind. CPOMS updated.</b> If parent becomes agitated waiting, ask them to go to the office – alert office they are coming.
Rumours or reports of drug/alcohol use by pupils, staff or parents.	<b>CPOMS</b> completed and safeguarding procedure started. Records kept over time in safeguarding concerns folder. Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Pupils talking about the use of drugs/alcohol/tobacco.	<b>CPOMS</b> completed and safeguarding procedure started. Records kept over time in safeguarding concerns folder. Involvement by learning mentor. Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Pupils bringing drugs/alcohol/tobacco or related paraphernalia to school.	<b>CPOMS</b> completed and safeguarding procedure started. Confiscate substance and store securely in the presence of a witness. Dispose of substance appropriately. Inform parents and carers.
Pupils asking difficult questions about drugs.	<b>CPOMS</b> completed and safeguarding procedure started. Records kept over time in safeguarding concerns folder. Involvement by learning mentors. Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Staff concerns about individuals/ families,	<b>CPOMS</b> completed and safeguarding procedure started. Records kept over time in safeguarding concerns folder.

adults or pupils displaying “symptoms” related to drug / alcohol.	Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Finding drugs or drug equipment (paraphernalia) on the school premises.	HT / DHT / DSL notified immediately. Items to be safely removed by the caretaker in the presence of a witness. Dispose of substance appropriately. Police notified if appropriate.

Should the media become involved, the Headteacher in conjunction with the Chair of Governors and Harrow Communication Department will take responsibility for liaising with them.

### **Searching**

Although this would be rare in a primary school, staff need to be aware of the law for searching and confiscating from pupils.

School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item. A teacher can ask pupils to turn out their pockets or look in a pupil’s bag or locker if the pupil agrees. Pupils who refuse should be subject to the schools behaviour policy.

The law says that a Headteacher or a member of school staff authorised by the Headteacher can search without consent if there is reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item i.e. items including alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, cigarette papers. The member of staff must be the same sex as the pupil being searched and there must be another member of staff present as a witness (of the same sex if possible).

For more information, please see **Department for Education: Searching, Screening and Confiscation July 2022:**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1091132/Searching\\_Screening\\_and\\_Confiscation\\_guidance\\_July\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf).