

EARLSMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Drug, Alcohol, Vaping and Tobacco Policy



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SUCCESS *for* ALL

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:

Securing resilience

Understanding values and respecting others

Committing to our learning

Community involvement

Equality for all

Striving to do our very best

Setting high expectations

Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco & Vaping Policy

INTRODUCTION

Aims

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, Health and Safety, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Code of Conduct.

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.

Application

This policy applies to all of the following people when they are on the school premises: pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors. Breaches of this policy by any of those mentioned will be dealt with by the Headteacher/Governing body. This policy also applies to pupils and staff when off-site when staff act in loco parentis, this includes all educational visits.

Although the school is not responsible for pupils travelling to and from school we will work with parents and / or other agencies should any problems be identified. The school is responsible for pupils during break and lunchtimes and this policy applies during these times. It also affects the use of school premises after normal school

hours. Organisers of any after school events should be made aware of the policy and their responsibility to implement it.

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.

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.

Drug paraphernalia refers to any equipment that is used to produce, conceal or consume illicit drugs.

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 and safeguarding responsibilities.

We understand that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise 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 or working group 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 the policy.
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

As part of their responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors have agreed this policy. They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation.

Headteacher

The Headteacher 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 such as Social Workers, Child Protection Officers, and police.

PSHE Leader

The PSHE Leader together with the Headteacher has a responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. The PSHE coordinator will provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to drug education. They are responsible for identifying and providing good quality resources and in-service training. The PSHE coordinator is Claire Hill.

The Headteacher, or in her absence one of the Assistant Headteachers are the first point of contact for advice/support in dealing with a drug-related incident.

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 Supporting Children with Medical Conditions 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 Headteacher 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 (see school's Safeguarding Children policy/procedures).

All Staff

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them should they be called upon to deal with a drug-related incident. This includes lunchtime supervisors and the site manager and cleaning staff. If they have any queries or training requirements these should be made known to the Headteacher.

The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any substances or drug paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the Headteacher and dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Drug education will be provided to all pupils with consideration of any particular needs (see Equal Opportunities policy).

DRUG EDUCATION

Aim of Drug and Alcohol Education

The aim of teaching children and young people about alcohol and other drugs is to support them in making informed choices, delaying 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.

Delivery of Drug 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.

Early Years and 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, vaping, alcohol and other drugs.

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 and making informed choices.
- Become aware of peer pressure, rehearsing skills to keep themselves safe and be confident with their decision.
- Develop assertiveness skills.
- Learn how to access sources of help and information.
- Emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- Evaluate media messages on drug use.

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

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

Special Educational Needs

Children registered as having Special Educational Needs have the same right to good drug education as any other pupil and will be taught alongside all other pupils. However, teachers must be aware of, and respond to their needs in drug education lessons just as in any others.

Use of Visitors and Outside Agencies

Visiting facilitators can enhance the delivery of drugs education and some pupils do respond better if they perceive the deliverer to be an 'expert' rather than their 'normal' teacher.

However, visitors will only be used in the programme if they can offer an expertise, an approach or pupil response which cannot be achieved by the teachers. Where visitors and outside agencies are involved, their contribution must have been planned as part of an overall programme of Drug Education. Their contribution should complement the teaching already taking place in the school.

Safeguarding

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

These concerns may include:

- Pupil's knowledge not appropriate for their age.
- 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 National Curriculum for science 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 Earlsmead's Monitoring Protocols.

DEALING WITH DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

This section provides a framework for dealing with incidents surrounding the use, suspicion of use, and finding of drugs and substances.

Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any drug-related incident that affects their child. An exception to this is when the child is deemed 'at risk' and the Child Protection Service has been contacted. In this case, it is up to the CPS to decide the course of action.

Staff should be aware that if they a) fail to act in a drug-related incident or b) allow drug use to continue on school premises, they could contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It should be noted that if the preservation of a confidence a) enables criminal offences to be committed, or b) results in serious harm to the pupil's health and welfare, criminal proceedings could ensue.

Incidents involving Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping and Tobacco

Tobacco and Vaping – Earlsmead is a smoke free school. Anyone wishing to smoke is required to leave the school premises.

Alcohol – Alcohol is allowed on the school premises for specific out of child hour events confirmed by the headteacher such as PTA events.

Drug – 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	Procedures
Parents collecting pupils under the influence of drugs/alcohol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the pupil in school – TA to escort them straight to the office. • Teacher to call HT/ AHT / DSL for support. • If parent becomes agitated waiting, ask them to go to the office – alert office they are coming. • Attempt to arrange collection of child from a secondary contact; inform social worker if the child is currently under welfare supervision of any kind.
Rumours or reports of drug/alcohol use by pupils, staff or parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOMs safeguarding procedure started. • Records kept over time. • Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Pupils talking about the use of drugs/alcohol/tobacco.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOMs safeguarding procedure started. • Records kept over time. • Involvement by learning mentors or other appropriate professionals. • Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Pupils bringing drugs/alcohol/tobacco or related paraphernalia to school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOMs 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOMs safeguarding procedure started if appropriate. • Records kept over time. • Involvement by learning mentors or other appropriate professionals. • Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Staff concerns about individuals/ families, adults or pupils displaying “symptoms” related to drug/alcohol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOMs safeguarding procedure started. • Records kept over time. • Parents will be contacted if appropriate.
Finding drugs or drug equipment (paraphernalia) on the school premises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HT & 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 the Headteacher or a member of school staff authorised by the Headteacher can search without consent if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item (for 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:** [Searching, screening and confiscation in schools - GOV.UK](#)

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