



Stoke Prior First School

Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Definition- What is a Drug?

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances (solvents) and illegal drugs.

Principles

Every drug, whatever its legal or social status, has the potential to cause physical or other harm. The fact that a wide variety of drugs are commonly and extensively available make it vital for children and young people to receive relevant drug education. It should not be delivered in isolation but should be firmly embedded in the PSHE curriculum provided by the school. Many attitudes, behaviours and skills are common to other aspects of health education. The school aims to encourage pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging their attitudes and improving their skills.

We also believe that the misuse of any drugs on the school premises cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individual concerned.

Fundamental to the school's values and practise is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of children with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

This school is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and will work together with parents and the local community to encourage pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

For curriculum coverage see the school's PSHE Policy

Aims

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the science curriculum, the PSHE programme and approach to safeguarding.
- To provide accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco.
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs.
- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
- To establish a school environment which is free from the misuse of any drugs.

- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug-related incidents.
- To respond to any individual within the school community in need of support and protection.

Practice

Effective substance use and misuse education is best achieved through a whole-school approach, teaching strategies are required which address and provide for all three main constituents of drug education. These are knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. Therefore teaching methods will include a rich variety of opportunities for active learning. The range of strategies will include individual and small group discussion, role-play and circle time. The development of ground rules with pupils when teaching about drugs and other PSHE areas, will facilitate discussion of sensitive issues. The school will ensure access to comprehensive, unbiased and accurate information.

Procedures

Medicines: See Administration of Medicines Policy.

Tobacco: All of the school premises are a no smoking area.

Alcohol: No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day.

Volatile substances: The school obtains relevant COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) data sheets for products being used and in each case follows guidelines for storage and for control measures. Care will be taken if aerosols are used to eliminate the risk of children with asthma or other bronchial problems coming into contact with them.

Illegal substances: No illegal substances should be brought to school or used on school premises.

Dealing with a drug related incident

This school believes we should be a community free of drug misuse. Illegal substances should not be brought into school and use or supply of drugs on the school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness. The school will decide when and if to inform the police. A record of all drug related incidents will be kept by the head teacher. Evidence of drug use by a pupil or possession of a substance will be dealt with appropriately. Each case will be assessed and different levels of sanctions will be used according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil's involvement. The Headteacher can authorise the search of personal property if there is reasonable grounds for doing so. Fixed-term or permanent exclusions may be used where appropriate.

Review and monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE co-ordinator in consultation with other staff as appropriate if changes occur or at a frequency not less than every two years.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE:	A.Paisley
DATE POLICY AGREED:	January 2024
TO BE REVIEWED BY:	January 2026
DISTRIBUTION:	Staff / Governors / Website (delete as required)