

**MANOR ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# **DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

**November 2024**





**Manor Road Primary School**

**Drugs Education Policy**

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## Manor Road Primary School

### Drugs Education Policy

#### AIMS

At Manor Road Primary School, our aim is for children to have positive values and behaviours, where everyone enjoys learning and achieves success.

#### 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, vapes and tobacco), volatile substances and all over the counter and prescription medicines.

We believe 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, wellbeing and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

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.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school.
- Provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school.
- Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education
- Give guidance on the administration of medicines

In order to write this policy, we have taken account of key national and local guidance including:

- Drugs: Guidance for schools DFE 2012
- Statutory framework for PSHE National Curriculum – Health Education September 2020
- Lancashire County Council ‘Live Well, Learn Well’
- PSHE Association Guidance on Drugs and Alcohol

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

The PSHE Subject Leader is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff, liaising with external agencies to support the curriculum and developing, monitoring and reviewing the Drugs Education Policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for managing drug-related incidents and will liaise with external agencies to support children vulnerable to drug misuse.

## **LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES**

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

- PSHE Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Behaviour & Relationships Policy
- Supporting Children at School with Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Equality Policies

## **DEFINITIONS**

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 EDUCATION**

### **Aims of drug education**

To give children information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drug use.

To achieve this, our drug education programme will help children:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others

### **What is taught**

There is progression from the Foundation Stage to Year 6 with topics and issues being included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of children.

**Key Stage 1** focuses on medicines and how to be safe, being ill and getting better, being safe with household substances and risks.

**Key Stage 2** focuses on effects and risks of smoking and alcohol, resisting pressure to do wrong, making safe decisions and knowing the law on drugs.

### **Where it is taught in the curriculum**

Drug education is taught mainly through PSHE and through relevant topics in Science.

### **How it is taught**

A range of active teaching methods are used that enable children to learn skills, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values as well as learn knowledge, practise skills to cope with drug-related situations and engage actively in their own learning. Such activities include role play, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Children work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, mixing up so that they experience working with lots of different children in the class, as well as in friendship groups.

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that children discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that children and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught in class. Teaching staff use PSHE Association planning which ensures all statutory requirements are covered.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Children's progress in drug education is assessed as part of PSHE and Science using pre and post unit knowledge captures, and AFL.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The PSHE Subject Leader is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. A range of methods are used including lesson observations, Pupil Voice, monitoring of floor books, monitoring of displays, and professional dialogue. The PSHE Subject Leader ensures they stay up to date with statutory requirements by attending termly subject leader network meetings. The Science Subject Leader is responsible for monitoring and evaluating statutory requirements for drug education within the Science Curriculum.

## **MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS IN SCHOOL**

### **School's view about the use of drugs**

Manor Road Primary School does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits (supervised or not), school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, children, parents, governors and those working and visiting the school.

### **Management of authorised drugs**

We believe that there are circumstances, when some legal drugs are authorised for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

#### ***(i) Prescribed Medicines***

Designated members of staff may, when requested, administer medicines to children. Details about administration of medicines can be found in the Supporting Children in School with Medical Conditions Policy. The decision to allow children to self administer medicines rests with the Headteacher

Those children in Years 3 to 6 who need inhalers, are responsible for their administration. Inhalers are kept in the classroom and are easily accessible. Asthma inhalers for children in other years, are kept with the teacher for safe and easy access.

Staff are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect children in their class.

***(ii) Non-prescribed medicines***

Staff administer non-prescribed medicines, eg pain relief, anti-histamines, with the written permission of the child's parent – see Supporting Children in School with Medical Conditions Policy.

***(iii) Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)***

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals e.g. for cleaning are set out in the Health & Safety Policy

***(iv) Alcohol***

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parent's events and staff social events. Staff accompanying children on field trips or school journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for children.

## **SMOKING POLICY**

This is a Smoke and Vape Free School Policy and smoking, including e-cigarettes (vapes), is not allowed anywhere on the premises.

## **DEFINITION OF A DRUG-RELATED INCIDENT**

In this school, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries.

## **MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

Drug related incidents in a primary school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve: children smoking cigarettes or vapes in school, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk, children selling cigarettes or vapes to other children, misusing another children's asthma inhaler, disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another children, a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes or vapes at a local shop, the Site Supervisor finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen children smoking or using a vape.

## **School responses to drug-related incidents**

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will be informed immediately
- all situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- the needs of the child will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole
- parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- a range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- if at all possible, permanent exclusion will be the final resort
- any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

- decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk. The Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place.
- incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Possible responses might be:

*(i) Support and counselling*

If a child had a concern about drugs or was involved in a drug related incident or was themselves at risk of drug misuse, we will seek support from other professionals and if appropriate refer to a specialist agency

*(ii) Sanctions*

Where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the Behaviour Policy. In the unlikely event of an incident involving illegal drugs, permanent exclusion will be considered and used if needed

## **Procedures for Managing Incidents**

### Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Headteacher.

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform police immediately of any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters, although we will contact Trading Standards or the police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol and solvents to under age students, from local shops.

### Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using CPOMS.

In all drug-related incidents the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.

It is very rare for primary-age children to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

### Medical emergencies when a child is unconscious as a result of drug use

Staff with first aid qualifications should be called immediately but the child should not be left alone. The child will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school.

### Intoxication, when a child is under the influence of a drug

The child will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and Headteacher will be called. The child will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school.

### Discovery/observation

If a child is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy, the substance will be confiscated and the child and substance taken to the Headteacher. Parent/carer will be informed and called to the school.

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school) it will be handed to the parent/carer.

If the substance is illegal (or suspected to be illegal) it will be stored securely and the police called immediately to dispose of the substance. The parent/carer will be informed and called to the school. The child(ren) involved will be internally excluded whilst investigations are carried out.

If a member of staff suspects that a child is carrying drugs on them or in their personal property, they cannot carry out personal searches but will ask children to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff. In circumstances where a child refuses to do this, the school will consider involving the police, parents/carers will be informed if this happens.

### Dealing with drug-taking materials

The Site Supervisor makes regular checks of the school grounds and knows how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice.

Children are taught what to do if they come across needles on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.

### **Disclosure**

If a child discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the child. Children know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

### **Suspicion/rumour.**

Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the child(ren) involved.

### **Intoxicated parents/carers**

Manor Road's rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk, then we will follow the Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Children need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to children through PSHE lessons. Information about a child in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Headteacher and record it on CPOMS.

### **Working with parents/carers**



The school welcomes parents/carers who wish to share with us their concerns about drugs. We can signpost parents to locating up to date information about drugs and where they can get further information, help and advice.

A copy of this policy is published on the school's website.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However, there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the young person at risk of abuse and in these exceptional cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher with the child's welfare a priority.

### **Involving Police**

In most cases, a drug-related incident will be a school, rather than a police matter. However, the school will contact the police immediately if an illegal (or suspected illegal) drug has been found on the school premises, on a child, or illegal drug dealing is taking place. We will only call 999 in an emergency.

### **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed as required. If an incident should occur, the policy is reviewed in the light of that incident.

<b>POLICY REVIEW DETAILS</b>		
Policy written by	Karen Marshall	December 2008
	Katy Wainwright	May 2016
	Jane Harrison	November 2024
Policy reviewed	January 2011	Reviewed and updated as required
	May 2016	Reviewed and updated by Katy Wainwright
	November 2024	Reviewed and updated by Jane Harrison  Moved on to new format
Review schedule	As required	