

# Drug Education Policy

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Agreed by Governors	Summer 2021
Date for Review	Summer 2024



## DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

**Westfield Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

### Introduction

Research has shown that by the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience. Research shows that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The figures also suggest that the first age of experimentation is decreasing and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Schools therefore have an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- Increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- Reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- Reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse.

Westfield Infant School has prepared a Drugs Policy as part of its legal responsibility to the pupils in its care. At the time of preparation, there is no evidence that the school has a drug problem.

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy pupils with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. This policy has been prepared as a 'preventative' approach and will be used in school as part of the curriculum for PSHEE and Science.

This policy has been written using the following documents:

- Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfE 2004
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012
- DfE guidance: PSHE Education 2013
- Leicestershire Healthy Schools 'A toolkit for schools' 2012
- Key principles of effective prevention education. PSHE Association 2016
- Cambridgeshire Primary Development Programme Drug Toolkit
- Leicestershire Constabulary Guidance for School on involving the police around drugs.

### Definition of a Drug

***'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'.***

*(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)*

The term 'Drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

## **The Purpose of the Policy**

The purpose of the Drug Education Policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, Governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

## **Who is the Policy aimed at?**

All staff at Westfield Infant School have knowledge of this policy. The first point of referral for drug related incidents will be the Headteacher. There is a PSHEE and Citizenship Governor Partner to develop governor support for anti-drug measures within school.

## **Drug Education Aims and Objectives**

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention.

Whilst PSHEE and Citizenship education remains a non-statutory subject, section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework document states that:

*'All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.'*

The DfE guidance for PSHE and Citizenship 2013 states that:

*'Schools should seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the national curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.'*

The schools drug education programme is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. It is taught in all classes as part of the PSHEE and Science curriculum. PSHEE provides an effective context for drug education because they focus on developing skills and exploring attitudes as well as learning about healthy and safe lifestyles. The overall aim promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society and prepares pupils for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## **Drugs of a Particular Significance**

Pupils need to understand that all drugs have the potential to cause harm; that using drugs in combination can cause risk; and that both legal and illegal drugs can be addictive.

At Westfield Infant School we hold an annual Healthy School Week in the Spring Term. During this week there is a full programme of PSHEE issues being taught by teaching staff and external contributors that include the Life Education Centre.

Specific aims are to:

- Promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour to good health, understanding how the body functions and how to look after it
- Enable pupils to make healthy choices
- Develop an awareness that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly, presenting general effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body
- Promote the school procedures related to medicines e.g. inhalers, ensuring that pupils are confident in the proper use of inhalers, and create a positive ethos for daily users enabling them to feel comfortable to discuss their own drug use
- Develop an understanding about safety rules related to medicines and other substances in the home, including solvents and cleaning products
- Develop an awareness of people who are involved with medicines such as health professionals and information enabling pupils to identify sources appropriate for personal and professional support.

### **Methodology and Resources**

All pupils' learning will be addressed during PSHEE and Science lessons through various active learning methods including:

- Role-play
- Discussions
- Drama
- Creative writing
- Quality Circle Time
- Structured games.

### **Dealing with Drug related Incidences**

Incidents are managed in the context of the school's commitment to:

- The safety and welfare of all pupils, staff and visitors
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drugs.

As we are an infant school it is highly unlikely that we will have to deal with a drug-related incident, however there needs to be procedures in place in the event of a drug-related incident occurring.

The Headteacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents in conjunction with the PSHEE Subject Leader. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent/carer, visitor or member of staff.

### **Responding to Incidents involving Drugs**

Appendix 2 outlines the procedures to be followed in any drug related incident. See Appendix 1 for useful contacts.

Drug related incidents will be reported to the Headteacher.

It is recognised that the school may experience a variety of drug related incidents including;

- Pupils asking about drugs in class
- Pupils talking about the use of drugs or demonstrating through actions or play an inappropriate knowledge of drugs for their age
- Pupils, parents/carers or staff finding paraphernalia on the school premises
- Pupils bringing drugs into school
- Pupils, parents/carers or staff under the influence of substances on the premises.

In dealing with drug related issues there is no legal obligation on the school's part to provide confidentiality. There may however, be circumstances where it is appropriate. When dealing with a drug related incident, the parameters of confidentiality should be made clear and consistently applied.

All members of the school community are aware of these procedures and the implications for individuals. Each incident will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Young children who are deemed to be at risk will be treated in relation to the school's policy on Child Protection.

A full record of every incident should be made using CPOMS. Storage of sensitive information about pupils or staff will be secure and will be in accordance with requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR. Records, including notes of any discussions with pupils, may be used in any subsequent court proceedings. Notes should include the time, date, place and people present, as well as what was said.

In every case of an incident involving drugs, schools should place the utmost priority on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If schools are in doubt, they should seek medical assistance immediately.

### **Links with other Policies**

- PSHEE and Citizenship
- Science
- Health and Safety
- Keeping Children Safe at Westfield Infant School
- Confidentiality
- Teaching Learning and Assessment
- Integration/Inclusion
- Single Equality
- Whistleblowing (how to raise issues of a serious concern)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed in the Summer Term 2024 unless a change in legislation requires an earlier review.

Adopted by the Governing Board and Signed by .....  
Chair of Governors

Date .....

## Appendix 1

### Contacts

**Jane Roberts: Leicestershire County Council Health and Wellbeing manager**  
**Tel: 0116 305 3196**

**Swanswell organisation - provider for all drug and substance misuse related services –Tel: 02476 010 241**

### Support for families

**ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)**  
**Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)**

### Turning Point

**Turning Point Leicester and Leicestershire is the integrated substance misuse service for the county, city and prison. Tel: 020 7481 7600**

### For Class A/B Drugs

**Immediate/Urgent response - an offence is happening - safety under threat**  
**Tel: 999**

**Routine Response – offender off premises – safety not under threat**  
**Tel: 101**

## Appendix 2 - Responding to Incidents Involving Drugs Flowchart



