

Harrow Lodge Primary School



DRUGS POLICY

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| REVIEWED: | Spring 2024 |
| EFFECTIVE PERIOD: | Summer 2024 – Summer 2025 |
| DUE TO REVIEW: | Spring 2025 |
| RESPONSIBLE PERSON: | MISS N BEDNARCZUK |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Harrow Lodge Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents and prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

1.2 We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

1.3 The legal definition of premises of the school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit. This policy will also relate to pupils' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

2. AIMS

2.1 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 their effects.

2.2 The purpose of this policy:

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

- 3.2 The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the wellbeing of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.
- 3.3 The Head Teacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

4. DRUG EDUCATION AS PART OF A WIDER CURRICULUM

- 4.1 'Drugs, tobacco and alcohol' form part of the statutory guidance outlined in the DfE guidance for Health Education for primary schools. *For more information regarding this, please refer to our **PSHE/RHE policy**. Please also see **Appendix One** below.*
- 4.2 We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (P.S.H.E.) 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.
- 4.3 It is felt that drug education should start at least two to three years before the likely age of experimentation. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity.
- 4.4 At Key Stage 1, children will be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.
- 4.5 At Key Stage 2, children will be introduced to the fact that, whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They will also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.
- 4.6 In line with these proposals, drug education will be taught as part of the P.S.H.E. programme using the 'Jigsaw' scheme of work. This topic will be specifically taught as and when appropriate.
- 4.7 The drug education programme provides various opportunities for pupils:
- They can explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
 - They can practise decision making skills.
 - They can become aware of peer pressure.
 - They can develop assertiveness skills.
 - They can consider the consequences of risk taking.
 - They can learn how to access sources of help and information.
 - They can emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
 - They can evaluate media messages on drug use.

4.8 Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We may use visitors to support our planned, teacher-led programme of education, in line with national guidance. The class teacher will always be present when visitors are working with our pupils.

5. MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

5.1 There are non-negotiable arrangements and procedures concerning the managing of drug-related issues.

5.2 *Medicines* - The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please see the school's **Medical Policy** for further details.

5.3 *Alcohol* - No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Head Teacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

5.4 *Tobacco and Vaping* - The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring smoking materials to school, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated. The school also includes the use of e-cigarettes and vapes within this category and treat them equally with traditional forms of smoking.

5.5 *Solvents* - The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (the only exception permitted is aerosol Ventolin or any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored in a locked medicine cupboard).

5.6 *Illegal Drugs* - No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought onto, or used on, the school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community, regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

5.7 A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- finding drugs, or related items, on school premises
- possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- supply of drugs on school premises
- individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- rumours or reports of drug possession, supply or use

- 5.8 In the event of any of the above incidents, the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed immediately and a written report compiled. In all cases, parents will be informed and, if any illegal substances are found or suspected to be found on a person, the police will also be informed.
- 5.9 Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person.
- 5.10 Any searching that takes place must be done so in the presence of a witness and in line with the school's policy on **Positive Handling**.
- 5.11 Articles confiscated and not required by the police will be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

6. STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- 6.1 We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Head Teacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff, as and when they arise.
- 6.2 All staff need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education and be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.

7. POLICY DISSEMINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

APPENDIX ONE

Statutory guidance outlined by the DfE as part of Health Education for primary schools related to 'Drugs, tobacco and alcohol.'

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| Drugs, alcohol and tobacco | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H25 the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking |
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