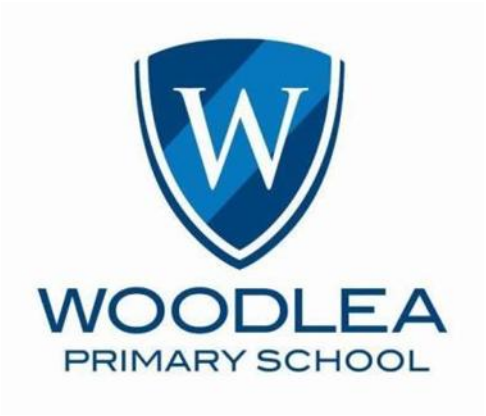


Woodlea Primary School
Drug Education Policy

Reviewed by	Headteacher
Reviewed in	Autumn 2026
Status & Review Cycle	Every 2 Years
Next Review date	Autumn 2028

Introduction

Why do we have a drug education policy?

We are committed to investing in our pupils' health and well-being, because we believe doing so will assist the process of raising their achievements. Drugs education is an important issue that is both essential and relevant to children in the real world and we acknowledge that the use of drugs affects all communities in modern society. Through our approaches to drugs education, we are seeking to develop and enhance life skills that can be built on and which will help them in the future.

What is Drug education?

For the purposes of this policy and the school's drug education programme, a drug is a substance that people take to change the way they think, feel or behave. The term 'drug' includes caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products, including cigarettes and vapes, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines, solvents and volatile substances, controlled drugs and other psychoactive substances.

Drugs Education is part of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

We have a moral and legal obligation to the children in our care to address this issue and to ensure that we do all we can to:

- inform pupils, parents and staff about the risks and consequences of drug misuse, including alcohol, tobacco and solvents
- teach young people the skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs, included in a more integrated approach to Health Education, with particular reference to government and local authority guidance and guidance from the local healthy schools programme
- help make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable to young people
- promote healthy lifestyles and activities

Aims

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.

(PSHE Association Evidence Review on Effective drug and alcohol education)

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 of it.

Head Teacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for implementing this policy and for liaison with the governing body, parents and carers, the local authority, police and relevant external agencies. Any concern that a pupil may be at risk because of their own or another person's substance misuse must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy and managed in accordance with the school's child protection policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. The response will be child-centred, proportionate and informed by appropriate family help or statutory services.

PSHE Coordinator

The co-ordinator together with the Head Teacher 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 Daniel Cole.

The Head teacher, or in her absence either of the Assistant Head teachers 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 Pupils 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 Head Teacher 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 Head Teacher. The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any substances or drug paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the Head Teacher 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 in the Curriculum

What Drug and Alcohol Education looks like at Woodlea Primary School

The Department for Education's statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education, revised with effect from 1 September 2026, requires primary pupils to receive age-appropriate teaching about the facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products, including vaping. The school will ensure that its planned curriculum reflects the current statutory content and is reviewed when national guidance changes.

At Woodlea Primary School , alongside the statutory requirements, teaching about how to manage social influence, pressure and risk is vital in promoting pupils' ability to navigate the situations in which they may encounter substances. It also contributes to safeguarding, by providing pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attributes, skills and strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Teaching about drugs and alcohol is integrated within a planned PSHE education curriculum (see SCARF PSHE curriculum), where it enhances – and can be enhanced by – teaching in other topic areas. For example, lessons on mental health and emotional wellbeing will include teaching healthy coping mechanisms and the importance of seeking support and help. Drugs and alcohol education is also part of the statutory science curriculum.

Teaching programme, strategies and resources

Drug Education is delivered through the SCARF PSHE programme by class teachers in whole class or group situations using a broad variety of teaching and learning strategies. It is also taught via one-off events such as when the Life Bus visits, participation in the Junior Citizen Scheme and via the Science National Curriculum. The PSHE coordinator will review the drug education provision on an annual basis through discussion with the teachers involved with the delivery of the programme.

Where the teaching and learning includes issues, which may be sensitive staff and pupils will work within clearly understood and applied ground-rules from the PSHE Association Guidance.

Special Educational Needs

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities have the same entitlement to high-quality, age-appropriate drug education as their peers. Teaching will be adapted where necessary so that content is accessible, understood and relevant to pupils' needs and vulnerabilities. Staff will consider communication, cognition, sensory needs, lived experience and safeguarding risk when selecting resources and teaching approaches, while maintaining high expectations for every pupil.

Children Vulnerable to Substance Misuse

The school will maintain a current list of local and national support services for pupils, parents and carers. Before signposting or making a referral, staff will check the provider's eligibility criteria, referral pathway, contact details, safeguarding arrangements and geographical coverage. Local provision will be confirmed with the local authority, health services or the relevant commissioned

service at least annually and whenever the school becomes aware of a change.

- Information and advice on drug/alcohol issues
- Support for young people and their families on substance misuse issues
- 24 hour helpline for referrals and crisis
- Assertive outreach for those who do not readily engage
- Young people Specialist Prescribing Pharmacological Support
- Access to detoxification services
- Access to residential rehabilitation services
- Individually designed aftercare packages

Contact details
Young People, Parents and Carers Crisis Line: 0800 622 6662
Professionals: 01372 832905
Text SMS number: 07595 088388
Address: The Mansion, Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP

Drug Incidents

Use of Visitors and outside agencies

External visitors may supplement, but must not replace, teaching by trained school staff. Their contribution must be planned within the curriculum, use age-appropriate and evidence-informed materials, support the school's safeguarding and equality duties, and be agreed in advance by the PSHE coordinator. A member of school staff will remain present and responsible for the lesson. Materials will be available for appropriate parental awareness, and the contribution will be evaluated as part of curriculum monitoring. Illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products, including vapes, are prohibited on the school premises in accordance with the school's behaviour, health and safety and smoke-free-site arrangements.

Parents and carers will normally be informed when a drug-related incident affects their child. Before contact is made, the Headteacher and designated safeguarding lead will consider the child's best interests and whether informing a parent or carer could increase the risk of harm. Where there is a safeguarding concern, the school will follow its child protection procedures, seek advice from children's social care where appropriate, and record the decision and its rationale.

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.

A drug-related incident includes suspected possession, supply, use or misuse of a substance covered by this policy, the discovery of drug-related paraphernalia, or concern that a pupil is affected by another person's substance misuse. Staff must first protect life and safety, provide first aid and call emergency services where necessary. They must then inform the Headteacher and designated safeguarding lead without delay, preserve any evidence safely, avoid conducting an investigation beyond their authority, and make a factual record of the concern, actions, decisions, rationale and outcome.

- the legal requirements
- the involvement under defined circumstances of outside agencies, including informing the

police where appropriate
- the types of behaviour, and the school's proposed course of action in response to them.
- the involvement of parents
- arrangements for recording incidents and informing others of incidents, for example the LA or local Drugs Action Team
- health and welfare procedures

When to contact the police

Searching, screening and confiscation will be carried out only in accordance with current Department for Education guidance and the school's behaviour and safeguarding policies. The Headteacher will identify staff authorised to search pupils. Staff should seek the pupil's cooperation before a search, consider the pupil's age and any additional needs, and involve the designated safeguarding lead where safeguarding concerns arise. Searches, outcomes, confiscated items, parental contact and follow-up support will be recorded. Controlled drugs and other suspected illegal items will be handled and disposed of in accordance with the guidance and police advice.
The school is not required to report every drug-related incident to the police. The Headteacher and designated safeguarding lead will decide whether police involvement is appropriate, taking account of immediate safety, suspected supply or exploitation, the nature and quantity of any substance, the pupil's age and vulnerability, and current local safeguarding and police protocols. Emergency services will be contacted where there is an immediate risk of serious harm. Any police interview or search of a pupil will be managed in accordance with the law and current DfE guidance, including safeguarding, parental notification and appropriate-adult requirements.

Dealing with the Media

If there has been a drug-related incident, the LA will be informed. Advice will be given by the LA on dealing with enquiries from the media in order to protect the interests of the child and the school.

Parental Involvement

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider school community for the drug education programme. Copies of this policy and other related policies for Safeguarding and RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) are available to parents and they are encouraged to discuss with staff at school any concerns they may have about drug related issues.

The school recognises that pupils who may have a parent or carer who uses drugs (legal and or illegal) can be problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally. Key staff involved in such support will receive suitable guidance in this area.

Parents will also be signposted to FRANK for support with drug related issues and how to communicate with children about this issue.

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0300 1236600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Text 82111, Website: www.talktofrank.com

Administration of medicines

Details of the school's policy on the storage and administration of medicines is contained in our 'Medical Needs and Administration of Medicines' policy. Our management of medicines is designed to visibly and consistently reinforce our teaching and learning objectives on the safe use of medicines.

Confidentiality

Pupils may disclose their own or another person's substance use in class or to an individual member of staff. Staff will listen, reassure the pupil that the concern will be taken seriously, and explain that they cannot promise confidentiality. Information will be shared only with those who need it to safeguard the child, normally beginning with the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. Staff must record and report the concern without delay in accordance with the school's child protection policy; data protection law does not prevent necessary and proportionate information sharing to protect a child.

Equal Opportunities

This policy will be implemented in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the drug education programme and this policy are implemented effectively, with operational responsibility delegated to the Headteacher and relevant staff. The PSHE coordinator will monitor curriculum coverage, pupil needs, staff training, incidents, external-agency contributions and the effectiveness of support and referral arrangements. Provision will be reviewed annually. The policy will undergo a formal review every two years, and sooner following a significant incident or a change to legislation, statutory guidance, local procedures or available services.

Appendix:

Useful organisations and sources of support relevant to this policy are listed below. This list will be checked at each review to confirm that organisations, contact details and web addresses remain current. The policy should be read alongside the Department for Education's non-statutory 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools' and current statutory guidance on Health Education, safeguarding, behaviour, searching and confiscation.

The appendix will include only organisations whose services and contact details have been verified at the date of review. Defunct organisations, superseded services and broken links will be removed. Each entry will use the organisation's current name, a verified web address and, where essential, a current telephone number or email address. The maintained online version of this policy will be treated as the authoritative source for support information.

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 07442137421 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 3 907 8480Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk Website: Alcohol Change UK charity: Alcohol harms. Time for change. | Alcohol Change UK

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 0300 330 5480 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 0300 123 1110 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Email: enquiries@ncb.org.uk Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: http://familylives.org.uk/

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Text 07496 959930 Email: infor@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044 Website: Quit smoking - Better Health - NHS

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team