



Woodlea Primary School Drug Education Policy

Reviewed by	Headteacher
Reviewed in	Autumn 2024
Status & Review Cycle	Every 2 Years
Next Review date	Autumn 2026

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 purpose of this policy and our drugs education programme, drugs are defined as: *a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave*. Our school uses the term 'drug' to include, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, prescribed and over the counter medicines, solvents and illegal drugs.

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 Head teacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy, its implementation, and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies in the event of a drug-related incident. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from relevant agencies such as Child Protection Officers and police.

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 (DfE)'s statutory guidance for Health Education at primary phase requires that pupils be taught the facts and risks associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

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

Children registered as having Special Educational Needs have the same right to good drug education as any other pupil and will be taught alongside all other pupils. However, teachers must be aware of, and respond to their needs in drug education lessons just as in any others.

Children Vulnerable to Substance Misuse

Catch 22 offers help and support for young people up to the age of 21 (24 for care leavers and 25 for young people with disabilities), affected by problems caused by drug and alcohol. They support young people in relation to their drug and/or alcohol use using a variety of different options for young people including:

- 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

Visiting facilitators can enhance the delivery of drugs education and some pupils do respond better if they perceive the deliverer to be an 'expert' rather than their 'normal' teacher. However, visitors will only be used in the programme if they can offer an expertise, an approach or pupil response which cannot be achieved by the teachers. Where visitors and outside agencies are involved, their contribution must have been planned as part of an overall programme of Drug Education. Their contribution should complement the teaching already taking place in the school. All forms of illegal substance are forbidden on the school premises. All Surrey schools have a no smoking policy which must be adhered to by all on the premises.

Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any drug-related incident that affects their child. An exception to this is when the child is deemed 'at risk' and the Child Protection Service has been contacted. In this case, it is up to the CPS to decide the course of action.

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 is defined as the misuse of any drug by any person on the premises be it pupil, parent, carer or visitor. In the event of any drug related incident, staff should immediately inform the Head Teacher who will then assess:

- 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

There is no legal obligation for the school to contact the police when a drug incident or offence has been discovered. Contacting the police is at the Headteacher's discretion. However, the

school has established close liaisons with our local police and any information about illegal sales of drugs including alcohol and tobacco will be reported to them. In the event of a drug-related incident in the school, the school would cooperate with the police should they wish to search premises. In the event of a serious incident the police may request to interview pupil(s). Parent(s)/carer(s) must be notified. They may refuse to give consent or prefer the interview to take place in their own home, in which case the police will make arrangements. Parents/carers may give authority to a responsible adult, e.g. a teacher to be present during the interview.

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

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the school community. Whilst members of staff will provide support, they work within child protection guidelines and must clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. Only in exceptional circumstances would sensitive information be passed on against a pupil's wishes but staff may have a moral, professional or legal duty to do so.

Equal Opportunities

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

Monitoring and Review

The governing body of the school has responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the drug education programme, delegated to the head teacher and teaching staff. Monitoring and evaluating enables the school to identify the relevance and effectiveness of the drug education programme and this is carried out by the PSHE coordinator. The policy will be reviewed annually, or in the light of any incident, and updated as necessary.

Appendix:

List of Useful Organisations as defined by the DfE in their policy, ‘ **DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools**’

With You is one of the UK’s largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.wearewithyou.otg.uk

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 8480 Email: 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: 01206 877910 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/ 14

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](http://www.nhs.uk/quit-smoking)

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>