



Last reviewed November 2025. Next review November 2028.

Headteacher: Miss Sue Jackson

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Drug Policy including Misuse of Drugs Policy

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Location and Dissemination

A copy of this policy will be available in the school office and on the school website, and may be viewed on request.

Context

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children, with high self-esteem, who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

The purpose of the Policy

The purpose of our school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and 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 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.

The Boundaries of the Policy

This policy relates to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, visitors whilst on the school premises, supporting class visits or involved in transporting pupils.

Definition of 'Drugs'

This policy uses the definition that a drug is:

'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 injected or swallowed

- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Statement on Drugs

Our school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol, nor the illegal supply of these substances. The school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of pupils. At Chalk Ridge Primary School, the Headteacher and Governing body take the final decision on any response to an incident in consultation with School Leadership Team, the LA, school health service and the Police and Area Drugs Education Consultants.

Our school aims and ethos are supported through this policy.

Drug Education Organisation

The following learning methods can be used...

- Role-play
- Discussions (including with speakers)
- Drama
- Debates
- Creative writing
- Questionnaires
- Circle time
- Invitations extended to other health professionals such as the school nurse to visit us.

Staff with Key Responsibility for Drugs

The following staff are responsible for drug education and dealing with drug related issues:

- Miss Jackson – Headteacher
- Mrs Baskerville - Deputy Headteacher

Staff Support and Training

Training may also be provided through:

- Induction
- Shadowing

Management of Drugs at School

Misuse of Drugs

This relates to the management of drug-related incidents on school premises, and off-site activities and trips.

Key Factors

Management of Incidents

In this context, the term 'drug' is used to include:

- a) illegal substances (e.g. cannabis, heroin, LSD or ecstasy)
- b) substances which are legal but can be misused – these would include alcohol and tobacco

Note: other substances, for example glue, solvents and over-the-counter medicines would be acceptable for possession and use on school premises provided this is for their proper, intended purpose.

Recording of Incidents

All incidents or concerns will be logged by the Headteacher. This includes behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs. Parents will also be informed and provision made for outside professional help, such as police or health.

Where illegal substances are involved, these outside agencies will automatically be informed. Illegal substances will be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered the items should be handled with care. The incident should be recorded and items such as needles and syringes should be placed in a secure and rigid container.

Searching

Staff should not search a child's property or person but should try to persuade the child to voluntarily produce the substance, if there are reasonable grounds for suspicion. If it is absolutely necessary to search a child, a police officer will be required and parents must be informed immediately.

Finding Drug Misuse

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents, or prescribed or over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and discussions will take place with the Headteacher.

Supplying Illegal Substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The Police will be involved in such circumstances.

Drugs Related Exclusions

The seriousness of the incident will determine whether, in the Headteacher's judgement, a fixed term or permanent suspension of the pupil is appropriate. The logging of incidents is of paramount importance. The LEA will support schools in their actions to combat the dangers of drug use and misuse, but does not support blanket or zero tolerance approaches.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher and PSHE Lead will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues, are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The PSHE Lead will monitor the policy on an annual basis and report to Governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Confidentiality

We feel that all sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupil's and family's rights and needs (see confidentiality policy).

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school.
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or Governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary.
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

The Role of the Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The Governors support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

Liaison with other schools

At Chalk Ridge we actively involve our School Nurse and Police Liaison Officer in developing our Drugs Education. We look to involve other reliable, skilled outside sources such as drama groups or support teams to support teaching.

Assessment and Monitoring

The Curriculum Committee of the governing body, on an annual basis, will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

Our review of the Drugs Education programme aims to ensure that

- planning is based on skill acquisition and development, and provides opportunities to explore attitudes and values
- teachers' subject knowledge is well informed, having had access to up to date information
- a range of teaching styles is used with an emphasis on active learning
- teaching is outcome driven, helping to influence pupil behaviour
- planning provides progression from the Foundation Stage to Year Six
- good resources and materials are used
- parents are involved
- evaluation and review of our teaching is ongoing and in the light of both the teachers' and the pupils' experience

Linked Policies

- Health and Safety
- Behaviour and Anti Bullying
- First aid
- Administration of medicines
- PSHE
- Science
- Child Protection and Safeguarding

Guidance documents used to form the policy include:

- DFE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE2012)

Working with other agencies and further guidance

The school takes advantage of the many partner agencies that support children across Hampshire. These include: Educational Psychology Service, Educational Welfare Service, Health Authorities, School Nursing Team, Hampshire Constabulary, Healthy Schools/ Personal Development Learning, Behaviour Support Team, PRISM (Processing Referrals Involving Substance Misuse) Team. Staff should make any referrals through the Headteacher.

Further support from charities and national organisations can be found by contacting:

Addaction – specialist drug and alcohol treatment charity

www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM – information service for families of drug and alcohol users

www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern – support for persons with alcohol-related problems

www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH – helping to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco

www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre – information service which covers all aspects of law and policy affecting children.

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England – supporting children through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware – promotion of responsible drinking, helping to reduce alcohol misuse alcohol-related harm.

www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline – helpline for people concerned about their own or another's drinking

0800 917 8282

Drugscope – provides information about drugs.

www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK – drugs awareness campaign aimed at young people and provides support for parents.

www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK – helping to protect the health and well-being of children to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives

www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau – promotes the interests and well-being of all children.

www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives – support for anyone parenting a child.

www.familylives.org.uk

Re-Solv – information for teachers, parents and young people.

www.re-solv.org

Smokefree – NHS smoking helpline

0800 169 0 169

Stars National initiative – support for anyone working with children and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – helping to prevent offending by young people

www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team

We can check that this is working by:

- Reviewing Drugs Education as part of an annual review of PSHE curriculum
- Talking to children about the Drugs Education they receive
- Monitoring the frequency of drugs-related incidents, if any occur at all