

Forty Hill CE School

Drugs Policy



The following policy has been written in conjunction with the guidance from DfE, The Ofsted Inspection Framework, ACPO Drug Advice for Schools and the Local Authority.

Introduction

Forty Hill is an inclusive, voluntary aided, one form entry, Church of England Primary School located in a semi-rural location on the edge of London. It draws pupils from a wider area than usual from all different cultures and backgrounds.

The children at Forty Hill will be taught to recognise that some drugs are helpful, indeed crucial, for treating medical conditions. They will also be taught that misuse of drugs, cigarettes, vapes or alcohol are damaging to their health and wellbeing.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the school drugs 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 all staff, pupils, governors, parents / carers, external agencies 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

This policy is seen as part of the school's PSHE guidance. We believe that the following factors help children to learn and make sound progress and we organise our teaching with this in mind.

- To form a supportive partnership between parents, governors, teachers and the community to develop each child's social skills
- To create a safe, happy and secure environment conducive to the development of the whole child so that they may achieve their potential
- To promote a pleasant attitude in all our children with emphasis on self-discipline, respect for others, their opinions and their property
- To build on the individual child's existing knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare for life's opportunities
- To provide pupils with accurate information about the misuse of drugs through PSHE lessons and to make sure that they know where to turn for help.

Aims of the Policy

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To provide pupils with accurate information about substances
- To explore the benefits of healthy lifestyles and the role of drug education within this context
- To develop personal and social skills e.g. communication, assertiveness and decision – making

- To develop and enhance self esteem
- To increase an understanding of the difference between legal and illegal drugs and the implications of their use
- To identify sources of appropriate support

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum and the informal curriculum. We deliver the taught curriculum mainly through PSHE, Philosophy for Children (P4C), Science and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Youth and Community Police and the Local Authority to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Substance/alcohol Related Incidents

Substance/alcohol related incidents involving staff are covered in the Code of Professional Conduct.

We accept that it is highly unlikely that any substance misuse incident will involve the children, but there are a number of other ways in which they could be impacted by drug or alcohol misuse:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- Children may be absent or late for school, or show other signs of neglect, because parents may be misusing drugs or alcohol. Children may also be high/influenced by second-hand smoke/inhalation/ingestion
- Children may be revealed as holding or transporting drugs for another person

Intoxication

It is difficult to talk to a person who is intoxicated or 'high'. If a parent or visitor comes to the school in an intoxicated state they will not be allowed to progress beyond the office. Senior staff will encourage them to leave the school and if they refuse to do so the local police will be called. The primary focus will be the safety of any children from the family and at this point the Child Protection Policy will be considered and the incident reported to the Designated Teacher.

It is not realistic to guarantee complete confidentiality for a pupil who may have been involved in a substance related incident. The school needs to consider carefully the pupil's best interest when notifying parents or carers. After discussion with a pupil it could be agreed to involve another appropriate adult. This would be particularly appropriate if for example the parents / carers were thought to be involved in substance misuse themselves or if the pupil may be put at risk. The student should always be told what information is going to be passed on and to whom, and the consequences e.g. if the police are informed this could lead to criminal proceedings.

If the law is being broken, Senior Management is to be informed. If a pupil becomes ill, medical or nursing staff need to know about all factors that may be relevant, including any suspicions of drug taking.

Pastoral Care and Support for Students at Risk

Should a pupil be identified by the staff as having experimented with drugs or as being at risk of doing so, he or she should be offered appropriate counselling and support within the school's general arrangements for the pastoral care of its students, and his or her parents informed.

We are aware that we have no legal obligation to inform police about an incident that amounts to a criminal offence and identifying a pupil as the offender, which may lead to that pupil being criminalised. In such

circumstances we have to strike a balance between the needs of that pupil and the needs of the whole school and wider community.

Recording of Incidents

The school will make a full record of every incident. Storage of sensitive information about pupils or staff will be secure and accord with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

An anonymous record of the total of substance related incidents will be kept centrally by the school, and is the responsibility of the Designated Teacher. This is a means of keeping track of the number of incidents occurring.

The law permits school staff to take possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and committing the offence of possession. The substance should be handed to the police who will be able to identify if it is an illegal drug; school staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance. Where pupils are suspected of concealing illegal drugs, every effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances by, for example, asking them to turn out their pockets/open their locker. In the event that voluntary agreement is withheld a member of staff can search school property e.g. desk/ locker, in the company of a witness. At no time should a member of staff conduct a personal search of a pupil or their property alone. The teacher must be careful to ensure that there is no opportunity for allegations of assault or improper conduct to arise, and therefore a witness should be in attendance. If the pupil refuses to cooperate the parent/police may be called. The powers to search by the police are clearly defined in law, and a search can only be carried out after an arrest has been made.

Working with Parents

Parents are informed of Drugs Education in school through termly information provided by teachers from each year group. This details the work that is carried out in PSHE drugs education lessons. Parents have the opportunity to request to see resources and materials that are used to teach drugs education on request.

School staff have a legal duty of care towards pupils in their care. This is interpreted in case law as the duty to act as a careful parent would. This duty of care is interpreted as a duty to exercise adequate supervision, which will depend on the maturity and age of the pupils involved, whether they are affected by a disability, and the precise circumstances. Supervision could mean giving adequate advice and instructions rather than constantly watching a pupil, although some activities, for example, while on school trips, may require greater supervision.

Fundraising Events

There is no smoking or vaping at any time on the premises, even at fundraising events.

Alcohol is occasionally served at events when children are present, but a license is always obtained and regulations followed.

Summary of Relevant Laws

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (amended in January 2004)			
	Class A	Class B	Class C
Principal drugs included	Opium Heroin/methadone Cocaine/Crack cocaine LSD Ecstasy Magic mushrooms (processed)** Class B drugs prepared for injection	Amphetamines Barbiturates * Codeine Ritalin	Cannabis resinD Cannabis herb Anabolic steroids Benzodiazepines (minor tranquillisers e.g. temazepam) GHB (gamma-hydroxy butyrate) Some stimulant, anti-depressant and anti-obesity medicines
Maximum penalty for possession	7 years and/or a fine	5 years and/or a fine	2 years and/or a fine
Maximum penalty for trafficking, supply or production	Life imprisonment and a fine	14 years and/or a fine	14 years and/or a fine

Other Reference Documents

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools
Health and Safety Policy
Supporting Pupils at school with Medical Conditions
Visitor Behaviour Policy
Visitor and Parent Code of Conduct

Monitor and Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly to reflect changing statutory guidance from the Local Authority and DfE.

Accepted by the Governing Body: October 2023

Review date: October 2025