



Flamborough CE (VC) Primary School **Drugs Policy**

Date of Policy:	September 2022
Member(s) of staff responsible:	Mrs D Wardell (PSHE Co-ordinator) Mrs R Dinsdale (PE and Healthy Schools)
Review Date:	September 2024

Introduction

At Flamborough Primary School we believe in the importance of education for the development of the whole child which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health. The ethos of Flamborough Primary School is to provide every child with a safe, secure, happy and caring learning environment in which they can develop their true potential – whatever their needs and irrespective of ability, race or gender.

We equip our children and staff with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society that lead to a healthy lifestyle and prepare them for adulthood. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking. We are committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all members of our school community and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

The school is committed to developing close communication with parents, outside agencies, the school nurse, and police.

This policy applies to the whole school community working on the premises during the school day, after school and the evenings. It also applies to school day trips and residential trips.

Definitions

A drug is any substance which, when introduced into the body, that creates a change in perception and/or how the body functions – how the person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

Drugs include:

Alcohol or tobacco

Over the counter medicines such as Paracetamol

Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics

Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols

Illegal drugs

The school recognises that this policy focuses on illicit drugs. Procedures for handling prescribed medicines is outlined in the School Medicines Policy

Aims

Flamborough Primary School aims to deliver a well-planned, coherent and co-ordinated drug education programme to all pupils using a range of resources, in line with DFES statutory and non-statutory guidelines.



Our school aims to:

- develop and raise self-esteem;
- enable informed choices to be made;
- develop appropriate personal and social skills;
- support emotional development;
- explore and promote strategies for healthy lifestyles;
- provide a safe and secure environment;
- offer support, help and advice on drug related issues whenever possible;
- provide appropriate drug education.

Staff knowledge and understanding

To enable the fulfilment of this policy staff development will ensure that:

- staff will have access to a basic level of information about drugs and drug issues through in-house training events;
- staff have access to a guide to the identification of drugs and the basic knowledge to recognise the signs and symptoms of drug misuse;
- staff have the basic knowledge and understanding necessary to deal with issues which may arise;
- staff have the relevant knowledge and understanding to teach the appropriate drug education curriculum;
- whenever necessary the PSHE Coordinator will consult with staff to make judgements regarding the need for further training;
- staff have the opportunity to express their own needs regarding training in this area.

The school will continue to develop a resource of drug-related information, which staff can access.

Drug Education

The curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle relating this to their own and others' actions. (DFES /0092/2004)

The school curriculum should aim to promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Drug Education should increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:

- Short and long term effects and risks of drugs
- The rule and laws relating to drugs
- The impact of drugs on individuals and families
- How to resist peer pressure

Drug Education should also develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including assessing, avoiding and managing risk.



Teaching about drugs will begin in KS1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling. In KS2 pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils about the dangers of smoking and habit forming, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks.

Drug education will usually be delivered by class teachers using both cross-curricular and discrete programmes within the personal, social, health and citizenship education provided by the school. This will be supported by the use of recognised outside agencies and other approved speakers abiding by this policy.

Drugs Education will be coordinated by the PSHE Co-ordinator. The programmes will be reviewed by the teachers involved in teaching them, in consultation with the PSHE Co-ordinator/Head Teacher.

Opportunities for drug and alcohol education exist within:

- The PSHE Curriculum;
- The Science and English Curriculum;
- Circle Time;
- School assemblies;
- Special events in school e.g. healthy eating week, visiting speakers;
- Sports and School Council.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's PSHE Co-ordinator will have responsibility for monitoring drug education. Monitoring of drug education will form part of the whole school's monitoring policy which is the overall responsibility of the Head Teacher.

Managing drug related issues

General points

All staff must be alert to the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is misusing drugs. Drug related issues will always be referred to the Headteacher. Any such incidents should be dealt with confidentially and logged by the Headteacher accordingly. It is recognised that incidents involving drugs may be symptomatic of other problems and difficulties in the pupil's life and all incidents of this nature will be handled sensitively and result in supportive outcomes for the needs of the individual.

The school will seek to work in partnership with parents, outside agencies and appropriate authorities. This may involve seeking appropriate counselling. The caretaker will regularly check the premises for signs of drug misuse and inform the Head Teacher accordingly.

The expectation of the school is that no pupil or adult will come onto the school site under the influence of, or in possession of drugs (except for prescribed medicines). The procedures below will be followed in instances where this is not the case. In most of these cases one of the school's designated first aiders may need to be involved and the Head Teacher should always be informed.



School procedures

Tobacco

The school's policy on smoking clearly prohibits smoking on the school premises and supports the policy of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Tobacco brought to school by pupils will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. If a pupil continues to bring tobacco into school then further action, which may be exclusion or informing the police regarding the reasonable suspicion of sale of tobacco to children under the age of 16, will be taken. Health Education work in the school will promote the view that tobacco is a drug and is very hazardous to health.

Alcohol

Sale of alcohol to under 18s is an offence and reasonable suspicion of such activity involving pupils at the school will be reported to the parents and the police.

Should a pupil be found drunk at the school all appropriate steps will be taken to ensure their safe removal from the premises. This will usually be done by informing the parents, but the police or ambulance service will be involved if necessary. Alcohol brought to school by pupils will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. If a pupil continues to bring alcohol into school then further action, which may be exclusion or informing the police regarding the reasonable suspicion of sale of alcohol to children under the age of 18, will be taken. Health Education work in the school will promote the view that alcohol is a drug and can be hazardous to health.

Solvents

Should a pupil be found under the influence of solvent intoxication at the school immediate medical attention will be sought and, if possible, a sample of the substance will be made available to the medical authorities. The child's parents will be informed and asked to remove the child from the premises once medical attention has been given. Solvents brought to school by pupils which are suspected to be for abuse purposes will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed and asked to collect the confiscated items. If a pupil continues to bring such solvents into school then further action, which may be exclusion will be taken. Health Education work in the school will promote the view that solvent abuse is very hazardous to health.

Controlled Drugs

Should a pupil be found positively under the influence of drugs at the school immediate medical attention will be sought and, if possible, a sample of the substance will be made available to the medical authorities. The police will be informed immediately. The child's parents will be informed and asked to remove the child from the premises once medical attention and police permission have been given. Drugs found at the school will be secured in a locked box, locked in the school office and labelled with the date, time, place of discovery and signature of the finder - details of the find will be kept. Drugs and drug taking equipment which are suspected to be for abuse purposes will be immediately confiscated and the pupil's parents will be informed. Drug taking equipment will be dealt with in a similar way. The police will always be informed. Cases involving children and controlled drugs will be considered individually regarding further action, which may be exclusion. Health Education work in the school will promote the view that drug abuse is very hazardous to health. In cases where a pupil or other person is found to be supplying or offering to supply controlled drugs (drug dealing) the police will be informed immediately.



Confidentiality and Child Protection

These issues need to be clearly defined as ground rules at the start of drug education lessons for the benefit of both pupils and staff. It must be made clear to pupils that the divulgence of any information deemed to fall into the significant harm category or putting pupils at risk must be referred to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Disclosure

If a pupil makes a disclosure about the use of illegal substances the Head Teacher must be informed immediately by the member of staff to whom the disclosure was made.

Searching

Where the Head Teacher or a member of staff has reason to believe that a pupil's bag/book/folder contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs, a search will be conducted. If a pupil is suspected of having illegal drugs on their person they will be requested to voluntarily produce any unlawful substances. If the pupil refuses the Police will be called in to deal with the situation.

Staff or other persons under the influence of drugs

Staff or other persons on the school site believed to be under the influence of drugs and having a detrimental effect upon the education of the pupils or causing a health, safety or security hazard will be requested to leave (so long as it is safe to do so) by the Head Teacher. On no account will the individual be pursued. If necessary the relevant authorities will be informed.

Disposal of needles and syringes

Needles and syringes will be handled with extreme care and only by authorised personnel wearing suitable protective clothing. They will be placed into a box specifically for their storage and taken as soon as possible to the needle disposal centre or handed to the relevant authorities. The caretaker monitors the school grounds as a matter of routine. All finds are reported to the Head Teacher and logged. The pupils are regularly informed of the rules should they find suspicious items on the school premises - the basic rule is do not touch, tell a member of staff.

Prescribed medicines in school

The school does not allow children to bring or take medicines in school, except in particular circumstances. See Medical Needs Policy. Staff who bring medicines to school must ensure it is kept on their person or out of reach of children, preferably in a locked area.



Further issues

The school will consult with the police if any suspicious substance, materials or drug taking paraphernalia is found on the school premises. A log number will be collected and the incident recorded by the Head Teacher.

In instances when the school becomes positively aware of a pupil being involved in illegal or dangerous activities involving drugs during out of school hours the school will inform the parents and the police if appropriate. This action will be undertaken in a sensitive and supportive manner.

If there is any doubt concerning the safety of a pupil in the home when a drug related incident has been reported to parents, the Head Teacher, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, will be alerted.

In instances where a child may bring an unknown substance to school which is thought to be drug related the school will confiscate the substance. An explanation will be sought and the procedures outlined earlier will be followed. If a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming from the child the parents will be contacted and other agencies will be involved if necessary.

Community

Whenever necessary, appropriate and possible the school will seek to work in partnership with the local community, parents, outside agencies and relevant authorities in areas considered within this policy. Parents will be informed regarding significant issues through newsletters and other communications including parents meetings with invited guest speakers if necessary.

Roles and Responsibilities

The implementation of this policy is in the first instance the responsibility of the Head Teacher and then all members of staff under the co-ordination of the PSHE Co-ordinator whose role is to:

- develop expertise in this area;
- collect information, materials and drug education resources;
- maintain and keep drug education resources up to date;
- foster staff expertise, knowledge and understanding;
- support staff with regard to drug related issues;
- report drug related issues to the Head Teacher;
- link with relevant outside agencies;
- support the school's role with parents and the community;
- liaise with other establishments regarding drugs;
- monitor the provision of Drug Education in partnership with the Head Teacher.

