



# Nutley Church of England Primary School

## D A T E Policy

This policy was endorsed by the **Board of Governors** at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Head Teacher**

signed

**Chair of Governors** signed

This policy will be reviewed annually and revised where necessary

# Drugs (including Alcohol and Tobacco) Policy

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.

## Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

## Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs. The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term drugs is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs: all illegal drugs (illegal drugs are those covered by the misuse of drugs act), all legal drugs, including: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (a gas or a vapour which can be inhaled), all over the counter and prescription medicines.

## Nutley CE Primary School Statement

Nutley Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

This policy applies to all pupils and staff, including ancillary staff and visitors to the site.

Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the school boundaries within school premises and any situation where children are under supervision of staff. The school site is strictly no-smoking, including the use of e cigarettes.

## Responsibilities

The Head teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;

- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Governing Body will:

- establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- support the Head teacher in following these guidelines
- liaise with the LEA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the Head teacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

### **Objectives of drugs education**

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding;
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

### **Drugs education**

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, our PSHE scheme (Jigsaw) and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2 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 that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.

We help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together, and when teaching

and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course we follow the DfES and LA guidelines. The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or by the LA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

### **Drugs at school**

Pupils may bring prescribed medication into school. Parents must visit the school to leave permission for us to administer prescribed medication.

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication may be stored in the office (for anaphylaxis or asthma). When appropriate and in agreement with staff and parents, a pupil may manage their own medicines eg. Asthma inhalers

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Head teacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school. (See Anti Smoking Policy)

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act, 1983.

### **Drugs incidents**

Drug related incidents include:

- the observation of a pupil demonstrating through actions or play an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age,
- a pupil/carer, member of staff thought to be under the influence of drugs,
- a member of staff having information that the illegitimate sale of drugs is occurring in the local area.

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays etc.

The Head teacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

A full record will be made of any incident.

The Head teacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

The Head Teacher (or designated senior member of staff) has overall responsibility for the management of drugs related incidents. The Headteacher will liaise with other local schools (secondary and primary) regarding the local drug situation, the content of drug education, the management of incidents, training opportunities and transitions between schools.

### **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 our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs policy;

- 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 about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- 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.

- When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of a parent or carer who is suspected to be under the influence of drugs on school premises and where staff are concerned about discharging the child into the parent/ carer's care the parent or carer will be consulted as to whether alternative arrangements for getting home might be made eg. for the child to travel with another parent/carer . Where the issue raises a higher level of concern and child protection issues become apparent the school will consider invoking child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police.

The school is primarily concerned with the welfare of the pupil and not with the moderation of the parent's/carer's behaviour.

### **External Support:**

Possible outside agencies will include:

Education Welfare Services

School Nurse

CAHMS

Behaviour Support Team

School health team

Youth and Community Service

Specialist agencies (young people's drug services, social services, family support and child protection teams)

### **Monitoring and reviewing**

The staff and the governing body will monitor the drugs policy on an annual basis.

If the policy appears to need modification, then staff will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The staff takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded.