

Drugs

# GRAFTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## DRUGS POLICY

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## **Introduction**

At Grafton we recognise that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us, and that experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people's lives. We understand that drug use is an issue which affects the whole community. As a school we have a responsibility to help reduce the harm caused by drugs, through drug education and drug prevention, as well as supporting those who misuse drugs.

This policy aims to emphasise the school's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education, and sets out clear guidelines on handling the problem of drug use in school.

In developing this policy we have considered our legal responsibilities, and the needs of the pupils, the curriculum, staff, governors and parents/carers.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Health and Safety Policy, Behaviour Policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **Definition of Drug**

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as 'a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'. It is a broad definition which encompasses legal drugs, such as tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines, and illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001), such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin and LSD.

## Drug Education

Drug education is found in the National Curriculum for science. It requires the following elements of drug education to be taught:

KS1	Children should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.
KS2	Children should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs have harmful effects.

We understand that the statutory minimum is insufficient to satisfy the requirement for schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. In addition to the science curriculum, we follow the Islington Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education (DATE) programme, which is delivered through PSHE lessons. Key to our drug education curriculum is the need to inform, discuss and present choices rather than to prescribe, judge or blame.

### Aims of drug education

Our drug education programme aims to support our pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- Develop an understanding of the possible effects, risks and consequences of legal and illegal drug use;
- Develop individual responsibility and a responsibility towards others;
- Enhance decision making skills and confidence, so that positive and informed choices can be made in situations where drugs may be available;
- Be safe, discouraging choices in behaviour that may put individuals at risk;
- Foster positive self-images and feel valued as part of the school, and wider community;
- Discuss drugs-related issues and be able to seek support if necessary.

## Overview of the DATE programme

The DATE programme of study is delivered by class teachers in years 1- 6 to their year groups. Visitors and workshops, such as the school nurse and theatre groups, may also contribute to the drug education programme, but should not be used in place of PSHE lessons.

Year Group	Drug Topics
Year 1	What happens when things go into / onto our bodies? Medicines and me
Year 2	Getting help from adults we can trust The role of medicines What happens to our bodies when we take medicines?
Year 3	Dealing with unhelpful pressure Drugs in everyday life Alternatives to taking medicines
Year 4	Tobacco Making decisions What we know and understand about drugs
Year 5	Dealing with persuaders People, drugs and stereotypes People and legal drugs
Year 6	Dealing with persuaders (review) Be a solvent expert Alcohol Illegal drugs

Learning in the EYFS links to and builds the foundations of our DATE programme. Most significantly, through the Personal, Social and Emotional Development strand of the EYFS curriculum, children should begin to recognise danger and know who to turn to for help.

### **Staff training and support**

The headteacher and PSHE coordinator ensure that staff receive relevant training so that they are able deliver effective drug education, and have an adequate understanding of drug related issues. The PSHE coordinator is available to support staff with teaching resources or specific concerns related to drug education.

The PSHE co-ordinator has responsibility for ensuring drug education is taking place within the PSHE curriculum.

## Management of Drugs in School

### Use of drugs in school

The possession and usage of drugs in school, or during the school day, is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This rule applies to all members of the school community.

The exceptions to this rule are:

- The use of necessary medicinal drugs;
- The consumption of alcohol, when attending adult social functions in school, held out of school hours, and during specific social functions held during with the school day;
- The use of tobacco, which can only be used outside the school premises (see smoking statement).

In these circumstances, staff must ensure that the usage of alcohol and tobacco during the school day does not interfere with professional duties.

Any breaking of these rules may result in the following:

- Parents/carers seen smoking tobacco or consuming alcohol on school premises will be reminded of the school's policy;
- Parents/carers who repeatedly abuse this rule will be sent a formal letter of concern, which will be copied to the Educational Welfare Officer. If this persists, advice will be taken from the legal department and they may be refused entry to school premises;
- If a member of staff is unable to carryout their professional duties as a result of alcohol or drug abuse, then disciplinary procedures will be followed.

## **Smoking statement**

The governors and staff at Grafton Primary School believe that smoking tobacco should be discouraged, as this damages health.

In the interests of all pupils and adults who use the school building and playground, smoking tobacco will not be allowed on the school premises. Parents, staff and visitors are asked to respect this.

Parents and staff who do smoke tobacco are asked not to smoke in front the children when helping in school activities, even when off the school premises.

As part of our drug education, the school staff will explain to the children that smoking tobacco is addictive for most people. They will acknowledge that the children may know people, including family members, who smoke and that this is their choice.

## **Administration of medication**

Staff may only administer medication to children, in conjunction with parental permission and medical prescriptions, whether in school or on a school trip.

Parents must make special requests to the headteacher in writing or in person, asking the first aider to administer a drug during a current medical condition. Before complying with any requests, the headteacher may need clarification from the child's GP.

All children's medication, including asthma inhalers and epipens, should be kept in the school office. In addition to this, children with epipens should also have an epipen safely stored in the classroom. Medications for serious conditions, such as allergies, should be clearly labelled with the child's name and photograph. All staff should be made aware of children who have serious allergies and should be informed of the storage location of any related medication.

Asthma inhalers, epipens and any medication for current medical conditions must be taken with the children on any trips out of school, along with instructions for dosages and usage, if appropriate.

No child should carry medication on their person. A child must not give medication to another child under any circumstances.

## Responding to Drug Related Incidents

In all situations involving drugs the following principles will apply:

- A balanced view will be taken with regards to the needs of the school community and the pupil;
- A pastoral response will come first when possible;
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigations;
- Support agencies will be involved, if appropriate;
- Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling arranged, if appropriate;
- Disciplinary procedures will be followed, if appropriate.

In order to ascertain the extent of drug use in the school community, any incident involving drugs will be monitored by the PSHE co-ordinator.

### Emergency situations

When a pupil has been discovered to have been using drugs in school, or during the school day, the first priority is to establish whether any medical help is required. The welfare of the pupil is the main priority.

Staff should follow the school emergency procedure:

- The person should not be left alone;
- Staff with first aid qualifications should be called;
- The person should be placed in the recovery position;
- If there is any doubt about the condition of the pupil emergency services must be contacted;
- The parents should be informed that their child has required medical help;
- An assessment of the incident should be made, including physical evidence of what has been taken and any other appropriate evidence;



- A report of the incident should be written down and given to the headteacher;
- The key staff involved will decide on whether disciplinary action should be taken and if outside agencies should be contacted.

If a pupil is found smoking in school, or during the school day, the above procedures will be followed. Parent/carers will be informed and any smoking equipment or materials such as cigarettes, lighters, matches and cigarette papers, will be confiscated by staff.

### **Disciplinary action**

We are committed to tackling drug misuse and instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness. The health and safety of all pupils is of major importance. The type of punishment will be dependent on the exact nature and degree of the offence. Any breaking of the rules regarding drugs will result in a range of disciplinary action being taken, including permanent exclusion.

### **Support action**

The pupil's welfare is paramount and we will endeavour to offer support and guidance to vulnerable individuals or groups of pupils. This may be as a result of incidents taking place in or out of school, or in response to parent/carers or staff concerns. Support can be offered as follow up classroom work or in some cases the school may need to seek support from outside agencies.

### **Police Involvement**

In most cases the sanctions are likely to be a school and not police matter. However, the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, which control drugs such as heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA, amphetamines and cannabis. These regulations make it an offence to possess or supply illegal drugs, and allow individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone from committing an offence.

Any illegal drugs which are found or confiscated on school premises must be either handed to the police, or destroyed immediately with a witness present.

It is important to bear in mind that if action is to be taken against the pupil(s) involved, destroying the evidence before it has been properly identified by an expert could make any case difficult to prove. Under no circumstances should staff attempt to test the substance.

## Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Our drug education programme has been developed to take into account the diversity of the school population and to meet the needs of the pupils. As part of our programme, children should explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes.

Teachers have the responsibility is to minimise any obstacles to effective learning and plan for all children to participate in the curriculum and achieve the best that they can. The teaching materials we use are regularly reviewed with staff and parents or carers to ensure their suitability.

## Parental Involvement

We believe that successful drug education is founded upon a shared responsibility. Effective communication and cooperation between the school and parents/carers is central to achieving this.

We aim to involve parents/carers in our drug education curriculum by:

- Making the drug education curriculum and policy readily available to parents;
- Providing opportunities for parents to ask question and raise any concerns with staff;
- Contacting parents if their child is involved in a drug related incident and working cooperatively with parents to meet the needs of the child;
- Providing support and guidance concerning drugs and other health related issues, e.g. through coffee mornings;
- Raising awareness of drug and health related issues within the wider community, e.g. through quit smoking programmes.

## **Confidentiality**

Pupils at the school need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem, without the fear of being judged or blamed. The welfare of the children will always be central to our policy and practice.

However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality and in order to seek specialist help if needed, this must be made clear to the child.

Information about a pupil in relation to drug incidents will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The headteacher should be informed immediately, and outside agencies should be contacted if appropriate. Confidentiality should be maintained beyond certain key people.

See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for further details.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The content of this policy will be reviewed annually to take into account changing needs of the pupils, parent and staff feedback and in the light of any incidents that may occur related to drugs. This policy will be monitored by the school's governing body.