



Drugs Education Policy

Approved: May 2023

Review date: May 2026

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to define the responsibility of each individual employed by and/or working on behalf of the school for delivering effective drugs education and responding to any (pupil) drugs related incidents. The school does not condone the use of illegal substances, unauthorised substances, psychoactive substances ('legal highs') or the misuse of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes ('vapes'), glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. In this context, the school will always take action to safeguard pupils' well-being. However, the school reserves the right to apply sanctions to pupils for drugs related incidents in line with the Behaviour Policy.

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. This policy is written with due reference to *Working together to safeguard children* (HM Government, 2019); *Keeping children safe in education* (DfE, 2022); *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused* (HM Government 2015); and *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools* (DfE 2012).

The Government's Drug Strategy 2017 (updated April 2022) ensures that school staff have the information, advice and powers to: provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information; tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation; and work with voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The governors will ensure that:

- a Drugs Policy is produced and reviewed every three years
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is appointed, trained and supported to advise other professionals in the school to recognise the needs of children, including signs of possible drugs misuse; and to refer any concerns such that appropriate action can be taken
- they receive feedback from designated staff on drugs related incidents/issues, giving due regard to confidentiality
- the school contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance and PSCP procedures
- pupils are taught about drugs and their impact through appropriate teaching and learning opportunities
- staff and volunteers receive sufficient time to fulfil effectively their child welfare, behaviour management and related teaching responsibilities

The Deputy Headteacher (i/c Safeguarding) will ensure that:

- the Drugs Policy is communicated to all staff and others requiring the information
- procedures for responding to drugs related incidents are reviewed frequently and reflect best practice for educational settings
- staff and volunteers receive regular training appropriate to their role
- records are kept of all relevant drugs related incidents and concerns with due regard to confidentiality and safeguarding procedures
- referrals to other agencies are made and followed up, as appropriate
- the Headteacher and Governing Body are informed promptly of any issues or concerns relating to drugs misuse, as appropriate
- related information is collated and shared with the Governing Body such that the impact of this policy and its related practices can be evaluated
- parents/carers and pupils receive timely and appropriate guidance and support (including external agency referrals) as required

The Head of Personal Development Learning (PDL) will ensure that:

- the personal development/PSHE curriculum provides pupils with the opportunity to learn about drugs in the context of the law and keeping themselves and others safe and healthy; and to develop the skills required to make sensible and informed choices for themselves
- parents/carers are informed of the drugs education programme of study and have the opportunity to contribute their ideas to its on-going evaluation
- staff teaching drugs education are provided with appropriate support, plans and resources to deliver drugs education effectively
- the quality of teaching, learning and assessment of drugs education is monitored and reviewed in line with school procedures, including through lesson observation
- appropriate expertise and experience from outside of school is sought to enrich the delivery of this area of the curriculum, e.g. visiting speakers from other agencies
- staff and pupils are directed to appropriate external agencies from which further information and additional support may be accessed, e.g. 'Frank', Early Help, School Nurse, CAMHS

The Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers, including headteachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

All school staff and volunteers have a responsibility to:

- identify children who may be directly at risk from the use of drugs or from related factors such as the use of drugs by a family member; all staff and volunteers then have a responsibility to take appropriate action, referring to the DSL as needed
- be aware of the Drugs Policy (and its appendices) and systems within the school which support its effective implementation
- engage with relevant training

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Springfield policies/procedures:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Medical Conditions

Equality Objective compliant