



Selby Abbey Ce Primary School

“I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Substance Misuse Policy

Agreed by staff: November 2024

Review Date: November 2025

Signed: *John Weetman* Date: November 2024 Chair of Governors

Designated Governor for Drugs Education: John Weetman, Safeguarding Governor

Drugs Education Subject Leader: Lucy Saunders

Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to inform all members of the school community about how drugs education and drug-related incidents are dealt with. The aim of drugs education is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and to provide a role model for our pupils.

Aims

Through our drug education, we aim to enable children to:

- Appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions.
- Explore attitudes and values about drugs, drug use and drug users.
- Acquire skills and develop their knowledge and understanding to be able to make responsible, informed and healthier choices about the role of drugs and their lives.
- Understand how decisions about drugs can have legal, social, economic and health consequences.
- Know where and how to access support.

These aims will be met through our school programme of Personal, Social and Health Education, in which work about drugs is included, alongside programmes of study within Science, Physical Education and Religious Education. The work is coordinated by the PSHE lead and delivered primarily by class teachers. Where anyone from outside the school contributes, they will do so in accordance with this policy and in line with the LEA Guidelines for Partners in Education.

Why do we need a policy about drugs?

As a school we believe that the interests and wellbeing of all pupils is paramount. We live in a world where drugs of all descriptions are available and accessible from medicines, tobacco, electronic cigarettes and alcohol to substances which are illegal. We recognise that the choices and decisions that individuals make about the role of any drugs in their lives result in consequences not only for themselves, but also for families, friends and the wider community.

What is a drug?

Drugs include medicines, tobacco, substances that give off gas or vapours that can be inhaled (electronic cigarettes), alcohol, solvents and illegal substances such as Cannabis, amphetamines, Ecstasy, LSD and Heroin.

This broad definition encompasses drugs that may generally be regarded as helpful, for example, medicines; some that may be considered as 'socially acceptable', for example alcohol, and others that are illegal. However, all drugs, regardless of their legal status, have the potential to be harmful.

The word 'substance' is used to mean drugs and those which can be used like them.

Child Protection and Confidentiality

It is the responsibility of Selby Abbey School to support its pupils, but no individual should guarantee a child absolute confidentiality. If there are any disclosures made which raise concerns, the teacher must refer to Child Protection protocol by consulting with the Head teacher or the Deputy Designated Person who will advise or act upon the concern. The Child Protection policy should be followed when concerns about aspects that come under that heading arise, when dealing within the subject of drugs.

The school's stance towards drugs

Selby Abbey School is a smoke-free/vape free environment with no tobacco or electronic cigarettes. Alcohol will not be consumed on the premises during school hours. The school does not condone the abuse or misuse of drugs, nor the supplying of illegal drugs or any substances not authorised to be on school premises or in possession of anyone under the jurisdiction of the school. We are committed to the health, safety and welfare of staff, visitors and children and will always act to promote these interests. We will do this by a programme of drug education and by dealing sensitively and effectively with any drug-related incidents that may arise. All medicines are to be signed in and out of school by parent/guardian(s). They are to be administered by the named person in the medicine policy.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

- The Head teacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring a policy is in place and for sanctioning responses to drug-related incidents and dealing with the media.
- Policy development – PSHE and science subject leaders, parents, governors, pupils, partner agencies including the Local Authority.
- Implementation, monitoring and assessment – PSHE and Science subject leaders and all staff.
- Co-ordinating drug education programme- PSHE and Science subject leaders.
- Managing drug-related incidents – all staff to inform Head Teacher and Deputy Designated Person.
- External agencies – LEA, school nurse and Police.
- Cross-phase liaison – Year 6 teachers and PSHE and science subject leaders.
- Co-ordinating staff and training – Headteacher, PSHE and Science subject leaders.
- Support services for pupils, parents and carers – information about services can be available from the Home-school Support Worker.

Assessing, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing drug education

There are opportunities for children to take part in self-assessment, at the end of their drug related unit on the PSHE scheme of work. These can be verbal or written. The learning and attitudes of our children towards drug education will be audited through questionnaires or discussions with small groups of children.

Good Practice

The influence which adults, including teachers, non-teachers, parents and others can have on young people cannot be underestimated.

Presenting young people with clear, unequivocal role models that are consistent with what we teach in schools is very helpful.

To this end teachers, non-teaching staff, governors, parents or others who help with school activities will be expected to: -

- Not smoke on school premises

- Not smoke in face to face situations with pupils.
- Not smoke on school transport and in private cars being used in school related activities where other peoples' children are passengers.
- Being alcohol free when responsible for pupils either in or out of schools on an activity for which ultimate responsibility rests with the school.
- Be free of any impairment of judgement caused by medication or other drug use whilst working with children.
- All school events which include children will be alcohol free
- Any medicine brought to school by staff members should be in line with procedures in the staff handbook.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

Any drug related incident will be considered on its merits with due regard to balancing the interest of the individual(s) involved with those of the wider school community. Examples of responses to drug related incidents vary from a reprimand, to being reported to the police, from being offered advice to being excluded from school. As the latter serves only to transfer problems, not resolve them, exclusion will normally be a sanction reserved for use when all other measures have failed.

In dealing with incidents the following will be considered:

- Confidentiality – schools cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils but as far as is possible we will ensure that information provided is treated carefully and sensitively.
- Police contact – there is no legal obligation on a school to contact the police. However, in any case of an alleged supply of a controlled drug the police will be informed. In other cases, the school will determine whether to involve the police. It is a matter for the police if further action follows. In the event of it being necessary for the police to interview a pupil on school premises, every effort will be made to contact parents as soon as is practicable. Where parents are inaccessible and the police determine that an interview is essential, a senior member of the teaching staff will be present.
- Parents – although there is no legal obligation on the school to inform parents if their son/daughter is involved in a drug related incident, the school will normally contact parents as soon as possible. We would expect to work with parents/guardians, the individual pupil and any relevant supporting agencies to successfully resolve problems.
- Drugs on premises/persons – if drugs, (excluding medicines) are found on the premises or on individuals the drugs should be seized and secured by the teacher or other adult member of staff finding them. The incident should be reported to the Head teacher who will inform the police and request them to remove or destroy the drugs.
- Any drugs or related items found on school premises – including the field, should be reported to the Head teacher who will take appropriate action.

When an incident arises in school, on school grounds, or on school trips, that involves drugs, it is crucial that staff are aware of the procedures that should take place. These include misuse of medicines, tobacco, solvents or alcohol or relate to parent/carer drug use or the finding of drugs paraphernalia. Staff should immediately report any concerns to the head teacher or Deputy Designated Person. Each incident will be considered by the head, balancing the needs of the child with the interests of all members of the school and local community before deciding on the action to be taken (e.g. whilst in most cases we would contact parents immediately as situations arrive. We reserve the right not to do this if we believe this not to be in the best interest of the child, and/or the police.) This should be recorded and dated on CPOMS.

If a member of staff suspects a child has taken any drugs, first aid procedures will be followed. Any suspected supply of a drug on or near to school premises should be reported to the police. If any drugs are found on the premises they should be put in a sealed bag and locked in a place until it can be disposed of by the police. This should be recorded and dated for school records; a colleague should witness all actions.

Searching of Pupils

If a situation arises where a child or child's possessions need searching, the child and two members of staff must be present. If a situation arises where children's clothing and personal belongings need to be searched, parental permission will be sought and contact with the police may be considered. On this occasion two members of staff must also be present.

Equal Opportunities

All children will have equal access to a drug education at a level that is appropriate to them. This policy should be read along with the other school policies, especially those on Behaviour, Child Protection and PSHE & Citizenship.