



Colgate Primary School Drug and Substance Abuse Policy 2023

OUR VISION: *Working together to be our best*

Approved by:	Colgate Full Governing Board	Date: December 2023
Last reviewed on:	December 2023	
Next review due by:	December 2025	

1: Drug Education in the Curriculum

Aims:

We aim to equip children with the necessary knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that will enable them to make informed choices for a healthier, safer lifestyle now and in the future.

What is a drug?

A drug is any substance, taken into the body, which alters the way in which the body functions either physically, emotionally or mentally. It can also alter behaviour.

The words “drugs” and “substance” are used interchangeably and encompass:

- * Legally available drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and solvents;
- * Over-the-counter and prescribed medicines such as tranquillisers and painkillers
- * Illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy and heroin

Objectives:

Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people.

We aim:

- to provide accurate information about drugs and the law relating to them
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs
- to provide opportunities to examine attitudes and values to drug use
- to promote the development of personal and social skills relating to healthy behaviour and the opportunity to practise them
- to enable children to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- to have a positive self-image
- To be able to recognise the influence of peers on their choices
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Organisation:

We regard drugs education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In routine PSHE lessons, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class and with attitudinal work on why people choose to smoke.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's Personal, Social, Health and Education curriculum. The teaching about drugs starts in Year 1 in an age appropriate way and develops children's understanding through each year group. By year 6, children:

Know about some of the possible effects and risks associated with different drugs.

Know that some drugs are restricted or illegal to use, own or supply to others.

Understand when and why some people may use drugs.

Can assess the level of risk in different situations involving drug use.

Can use some methods to manage risk in situations involving drug use.

2. Legally Available Substances on the School Site

Tobacco

The school operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the building and grounds. This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents and visitors.

Alcohol

The possession and use of alcohol on school premises during the working day is prohibited for all members of the school community. The headteacher must be consulted and permission obtained before arranging any activities or functions at which alcohol may be used or consumed.

Solvents

The school recognises that many ordinary substances can lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed. Correcting fluid is not permitted in school, except for use by staff in designated areas. Aerosol sprays are not permitted in school, except for use by staff in designated areas e.g. Art.

Medication: over the counter and prescribed drugs, including inhalers.

Parents/Carers who wish their child to be given prescribed medicines during school hours are asked to complete a form available from the school office. The parent must then give the prescribed medicines to one of the school's nominated First Aiders who will administer the medicine at the correct time.

For children using inhalers, see Asthma Policy.

School Visits (day and residential)

The school's policy on drugs applies to all school visits.

3. Responding to drug related incidents

The school acknowledges pastoral responsibility in this area and seeks to work closely with families and support agencies. The school will consider each drug incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. It will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. The school seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, the other school members and the local community.

The designated drugs co-ordinator is the Headteacher, who should be informed of any drugs related incident as soon as possible.

What is a drugs related incident?

This could include any or a combination of the following:

- * Emergencies
- * Intoxication
- * Discovery/observation
- * Disclosure
- * Suspicion/hearsay

When responding to any drug-related incident, the main priority at all times should be the welfare and safety of the individuals involved and the wider community. The Headteacher will decide if other agencies such as the police and the Drug Action Team are to be involved.

In the particular case of intoxication of adults on school site we ask:-

Is/are the pupil/pupils in danger? What is the risk to the pupil/pupils? What is the risk to others?

If YES – GET ASSISTANCE –inform the Headteacher who will advise on appropriate action.

Recordings of drug related incidents with regard to a parent will be carried out by staff member making the report and will adhere to the following principles:

- a) They will be specific
- b) They will be non-judgemental (i.e. descriptive rather than interpretive)
- c) They will be objective
- d) They will be factual
- e) They will be uploaded to CPOMS

4. Roles

a) The Role of The Headteacher:

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis.

b) The Role of the Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will support the Head to inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy as required.

c) The Role of Parents/Carers

We wish to build positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In support of this policy we will:

- * inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice via the school's website
- * answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school
- * inform parents when their child is learning about drugs in school so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children

d) Monitoring and Review

The PSHE Coordinator will review the policy every two years.

HEADTEACHER: R.Winn

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: Miss A. Calvert

DATE: December 2023

REVIEW DATE: December 2025