Grayshott CE Primary School

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Non-Statutory Policy

Approved by FGB: Autumn 2026

Review Date: Autumn 2027

Our Vision

'Acorns to Mighty Oaks'

We are acorns growing to mighty oaks.
Our roots are in Christian teachings and in a loving, supportive village and church family.
Our branches are strong moral character and a love of learning.
Our fruit will be fulfilling lives that make a positive difference in the world.

"They will be called the oaks of righteousness." Isaiah 61: v1-3

Introduction

This policy is developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. It links with:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- School Policy on Medicines in School
- PSHE Curriculum
- Science Curriculum

The policy has been developed using national and local guidance, including 'Drugs – Guidance for Schools' DfES 2004, NHSS guidelines, LA guidelines, QCA schemes of work in Science, the framework for PHSCE, and QCA curriculum guidance on Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Education 2003.

Purpose

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises
- Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the school drug education programme and management of drug-related incidents

The drug policy applies to the school and playing fields including pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone else visiting the school. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips.

Definition of 'drugs'

This policy uses the definition that a drug is: A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The term 'drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Statement on drugs
Grayshott CE Primary School finds it wholly unacceptable within the school premises or grounds to introduce, sell or use illegal drugs or to misuse legal drugs or substances. Appropriate steps will be taken to deal with any drug-related incidents which occur. The school has a policy on the administration of prescription medicines when necessary, which conforms to LA guidelines. This is available on TeacherPool. The first concern in managing drugs is the health & safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

Responsible staff member
The senior member of staff responsible for drug related issues is the Headteacher, Richard Austin

Drug Education - Educational Aims and Objectives
The school's drug education programme is done through the Jigsaw PSHE scheme and is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to take responsibility for making informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Drug education will link in with the whole school ethos of promoting high self-esteem and Emotional Literacy within pupils.

Specific aims of the Drug Education Policy are:
- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.
- To foster and develop self-esteem.
- To provide accurate information.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To practise the skills necessary to deal with a drug offer situation.
- To widen understanding about health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

Elements of the School Drugs Education Programme
The aims of imparting knowledge/understanding, skills and attitudes will be fulfilled through the teaching of the Science, PSHE and PE curricula and through developing the whole school ethos.

The main aspects of this are delivered through the 'Healthy Me' units of the Jigsaw PSHE programme and more details can be found there regarding elements that are covered at different stages.

Organisation of the Drugs Education Programme
The PSHE subject lead is responsible for the organisation of Drug Education within the school. All class teachers are responsible for teaching the relevant sections of the Science, PSHE and PE curricula and for developing the school ethos within their class

All staff working with children should be aware of any worries and concerns that individuals may have, and ensure that children get appropriate support (see section on confidentiality). Class teachers and Key Stage Co-ordinators are responsible for assessing pupil needs within their class in relation to drug education

Methodology and Resources
Drug education should help pupils make informed choices and establish a healthy lifestyle, and they should be involved in active learning experiences. A wide range of teaching methods will be used including discussions, role-play and other active, creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues. The use of Circle time involves the laying down of ground rules in dealing with sensitive issues. Resources are available through the Jigsaw portal and on TeacherPool

Staff Support and Training
The member of staff responsible for drug related issues will be sent on appropriate training courses and will cascade information to staff. General staff training will be built into the school development plan wherever necessary or prudent.

Assessment and Monitoring
Assessment of the Science and PE elements of the Drug Education Programme will be assessed according to the National Curriculum. Assessment of PSHE elements will be by teacher assessment, following observation of pupils' contributions in discussion, role-play etc. Pupils will be encouraged to undertake self-assessment and peer-group assessment, reflecting on what they have learnt.

Achievement in the Drug Education can form part of the PSHE section of the school report. The responsible member of staff for drug issues is responsible for overall monitoring of drug education, with feedback from curriculum co-ordinators. Feedback from pupils, class teachers and parent/carers will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum. The Drug Education programme should be reviewed annually.

Management of drugs at school
If a drug-related incident occurs staff should:
- Inform Headteacher and/or responsible member of staff.
- Inform parent/carer providing this does not place child at risk. (On advice from Headteacher.)
- Legal substances can be returned to parent/carer or disposed of safely.
- If disclosure is made by/about a child or carer, advice or information should be offered.
- Assess whether further action is necessary e.g. is it putting the child at risk. Consider issues of confidentiality.
- Identify the needs of those involved in any incident and decide on an appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other agency.
- Provide pupil and carer with access to further forms of support.
- Provide information in school, for example if a discarded syringe were to be found children should be warned of the dangers as a matter of priority.
- Seek outside support if necessary e.g. LA, school health team, child protection officer, EWO, police etc.
- In the case of illegitimate sale of legal or illegal drugs, the Headteacher will decide whether to inform the police – it is not a legal obligation to do so.

All decisions and actions should be recorded on CPOMS. The outcome for pupil and school community should be monitored and the effectiveness of policy and practice assessed. Permanent exclusion of a pupil is seen as a last resort.

In the extremely unlikely event of a drug related incident, the following procedures should be followed:
- Ascertain if there is any medical emergency, and call ambulance and follow First Aid procedures if necessary.
- Remove drug/paraphernalia using gloves and place in a secure container.
- Liaise with LA on safe disposal of matter such as needles.
- Temporarily store drug/paraphernalia in a secure place.

Police involvement
Police should be involved in any incident involving the sale or use of illegal drugs, although there is no legal obligation to give a pupil's name. The Headteacher will make the decision on the need to involve the police. Incidents where a parent/carer is behaving under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises will be judged on the circumstances and the Headteacher will make a decision as to whether the police should be called.

The needs of pupils
Class teachers and others involved in the care of children should be aware of the pastoral needs of children affected by drug-related issues. Concerns should be raised with the Headteacher and SENCo, and appropriate support structures activated. (See section on confidentiality).

Confidentiality
Teachers and staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However requests for confidentiality should be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information: it should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes, where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

Involvement of parents/carers
In the event of any incident involving the misuse of any legal or illegal drug on school premises, the Headteacher will take the decision as to whether parents/carers should be informed, and how they will be involved in dealing with the incident.