

Elmwood Infant and Nursery School

Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy



Article 29 'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full'



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DATE POLICY REVIEWED: Spring 2020

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: Spring 2023

Principles

In this document the term drug is used to refer to: all illegal drugs; all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, shisha, volatile substances, e-cigarettes; all over the counter and prescription medicines and other drugs such as psychoactive substances (legal highs).

Every drug, whatever its legal or social status, has the potential to cause physical or other harm. The fact that a wide variety of drugs are commonly and extensively available makes it vital for children and young people to receive relevant drug education. It should not be delivered in isolation but should be firmly embedded in the PSHE curriculum provided by the school. Many attitudes, behaviours and skills are common to other aspects of health education. The school aims to encourage pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging their attitudes and improving their skills. We also believe that the misuse of any drugs, on the school premises cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individual concerned. Fundamental to the school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of children with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Other related policies:

- Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equal opportunities/Race Discrimination Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Relationship Education Policy

Aims

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the science curriculum and the PSHE programme.
- To provide accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco.
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs.
- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug-related incidents.
- To respond to any individual within the school community in need of support and protection.

Organisation of drug, alcohol and tobacco education within the curriculum

- Drug Education is provided within the broader framework of PSHE/Citizenship, where wider issues of promoting the safe use of medicines, health, positive behaviour and social responsibility can be addressed.
- PSHE is taught within classrooms using the Jigsaw scheme of work and through forums such as 'circle time' where issues can be discussed. Making healthy choices will form part of the PSHE curriculum, and it will also be taught as part of the science curriculum. At KS1 we focus on what are safe and unsafe substances, what medicines are, why people take them and how to take them safely, being ill and getting better.

Dealing with drug related incidents

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Headteacher. For the safety of the whole school any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises.

Smoking

Elmwood Infants is a smoke free school and staff, parents and carers, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises. In the interest of health and safety smoking materials including matches and lighters are not allowed in school and if a pupil is found in possession they will be confiscated and parents/carers informed. E-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation but we do not allow the use of them by staff, parents/carers, contractors or visitors on the school premises.

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally. This may also include individuals disclosing information about their own or others drugs use.

In all drug related incidents the following will apply:

- The Headteacher and members of the Safeguarding Team will be informed immediately
- 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.
- Support agencies, including the police, will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Confidentiality

Staff working with pupils cannot offer unconditional or absolute confidentiality. Staff have an obligation to pass information on to a member of the school's safeguarding team if what is disclosed indicates that a pupil is at risk from harm.

Review and Monitoring

The policy will be monitored and evaluated by:

- PSHE Co-coordinator
- Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- Governors.

