



POLICY FOR DRUG AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Approved by: Full Governing Body

Date:

Last reviewed on: November 2021

**Next review due
by:** November 2023

At Grimsdyke School we aim to provide a co-ordinated and consistent approach to drugs and substance misuse education and the management of drug and substance misuse related incidents, with clearly defined aims and objectives.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of our pupils with parents. We at Grimsdyke School encourage an active partnership with parents as recognised in the aims of the school.

POLICY AIMS

This policy recognizes that drugs and substance misuse takes place within our community, has consequences for all members of that community and recognizes that drug use and substance misuse can have a serious effect on health, well being and academic achievement. As a school, we have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs/substance misuse can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. This is part of the school's safeguarding responsibility.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs/substance misuse and this policy aims to:

- Help all pupils at Grimsdyke develop a healthy, safer lifestyle, as set out in our personal, social and health education curriculum and in accordance with 'Every Child Matters'.
- Provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school.
- Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug/substance misuse education
- Give guidance on the administration of medicines

Grimsdyke is a no smoking school and smoking is not allowed anywhere on the premises apart from a designated staff smoking area which is not in a location where students have access.

DRUG/SUBSTANCE MISUSE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Drug and substance education is delivered through the science and PSHCE curriculum.

Range of Substances Covered

Our drug education programme and management of incidents and situations involving drugs encompasses all drugs;

- Volatile substances (e.g. petrol, butane, aerosols)
- Over-the-counter medicines (e.g. paracetamol, cough medicines)
- Prescription medicines (e.g. tranquilizers, amphetamines, anabolic steroids)
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Other legal drugs (e.g. caffeine and khat)
- Illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis, heroin, LSD, ecstasy)
- (see governmental guidance in The Right Response SCODA '99 p. 25)

Our key emphasis is to educate our young people to grow up safely in a society where drugs/substance misuse are available. Our behaviour policy clearly sets out the boundaries of acceptable social behaviour and aims to empower our pupils to take responsibility when making informed choices.

AIMS OF OUR DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

To give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drug use.

To achieve this our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The PSHE/RE curriculum team is responsible for managing the programme and co-ordinating appropriate resources. Class teachers are responsible for delivering the programme to their pupils mainly through the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and other curriculum areas where appropriate. As a school we use the Jigsaw PSHE programme to support the delivery of these sessions.

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values as well as learn knowledge, practice skills to cope with drug-related situations and engage actively in their own learning. Such activities include role play, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Pupils work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, mixing up so that they experience working with lots of different pupils in the class, as well as in friendship groups.

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that pupils and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught by the class teacher and appropriate outside agencies.

How pupils' learning is assessed, monitored and evaluated

Pupils' progress in drug education is assessed as part of PSHE and citizenship assessment and Science assessment. Pupils' knowledge, attitudes and skills are assessed through a range of methods including end of topic self assessment and teacher assessment.

Monitoring and evaluation help plan future lessons and review the programme and improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The PSHE/ RE team is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. A range of methods are used including lesson observations and work sampling.

Pupils and teachers evaluate the drug education programme through completing end of topic evaluations and specific evaluations of outside contributors e.g. Police, Theatre groups.

GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits (supervised or not), school journeys and at school social events. Certain exceptions include personal medication and alcoholic beverages at social events at the discretion of the Head Teacher.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents, governors and those working and visiting the school. The school will respond to rumours or reports of drugs being used by adults or pupils either in or out of school

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils.

Parents/carers are encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply;

- The Headteacher and members of the Leadership Team will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking into account the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/Carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- 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

Possible responses might be:

- Support and counselling
- Sanctions- where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the Behaviour Policy

PROCEDURES

Reporting Incidents

- All Drugs related incidents should be reported to the Head Teacher.

- Grimsdyke School will keep a record of all drug-related incidents.
- Information that needs to be passed on to other authorities will be dealt with by the Headteacher. School policy regarding response to the media must be observed in all cases.

DRUG RELATED MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In the case of a drug related medical emergency, staff must immediately call on the trained first aiders on site who will contact professional medical help as appropriate.

A medical emergency arises when a person:

- is unconscious
- is having trouble breathing
- is seriously confused or disorientated
- has taken a harmful or toxic substance
- is otherwise at immediate risk of harm

In every case where anyone at Grimsdyke School becomes aware of a situation involving drug use without medical authority, there will be a need to act promptly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of individuals and the school community. Some medicines may be hazardous without appropriate care, so staff should exercise caution in all cases, seeking medical guidance wherever necessary. It is essential that pupils understand the need to give any information they have about what a person has taken, rather than withhold it to avoid getting someone into trouble. They need to know that such information could save a life. This must be a positive element of our Drug education programme.

All medicines bought in to school must be stored in the medical room and may only be administered with written parental/carers consent.

FINDING A SUBSTANCE

If a substance is discovered which is suspected as being harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness. This will be either the Headteacher's office or the Welfare/Medical room.

If a substance is removed from a pupil, this should be done in the presence of a witness and the above procedure followed. In either case the following should be recorded.

- Date and time of find or retrieval
- Size and appearance of substance
- The names of those concerned
- Action taken

In all drug-related incidents the Head Teacher, in consultation with appropriate staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.

It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

FINDING DRUG RELATED EQUIPMENT

(e.g. syringe, cigarette)

In the event of discovering any equipment or paraphernalia associated with drug use the items should be handled with care. The incident must be recorded as above and the items confiscated.

SEARCHES

If staff find substances which are not believed to be illegal/controlled drugs these can be confiscated where staff believe them to be harmful or detrimental to good behaviour. If staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as an illegal drug. The school will keep a record of any searches taken and inform parents/carers if a substance is found.

Teachers can search pupils' bags in circumstances where a member of staff believes drugs have been stored there; they will seek the pupil's consent and search with a senior member of staff present. If consent is refused the decision to search will be taken by the Headteacher.

The caretaker makes regular checks of the school grounds and knows how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice. Pupils are taught what to do if they come across suspicious materials such as needles on the school premises and know not to touch them and inform a member of staff immediately.

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteacher, or his representative, may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies.

Staff should not search a pupil's property or person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking them to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil, a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance.

DISCLOSURE

When a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use staff will be non-judgemental and caring and show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that staff cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or a DSL should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone; however, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made.

Our school rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If we are concerned that a pupil is at risk then we will follow the school's Child Protection procedures.

We are sensitive to the needs of pupils who live within families where there is evidence of drug abuse. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a pupil discloses, we will assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and, if needed, involve external support for the pupil and, where appropriate, for the family

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE and citizenship programme. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Head teacher.

Intoxicated parents/carers

Our schools rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

DEVELOPING THE POLICY

The school will encourage the active involvement of staff, governors, parents and pupils in the consultation and review of this policy.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Training needs will be identified and INSET opportunities provided
- A process of monitoring and evaluation will be established

February 2009

Reviewed November 2011

Reviewed November 2013

Reviewed January 2018

Reviewed September 2021