



Seamer and Irton CP School

Drug and Substance Misuse Policy



Frequency of review	Annual
Governor lead	Helen Mallory
Lead member of staff	Robert Webb
Reviewed on	May 2025
Reviewed by	Governing Board
Next review	May 2026

‘Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.’

1. Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to set out the school’s approach to teaching and learning about drugs and our management of situations involving drugs.

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. (Appendix 1)

Our school operates a smoke and vape free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously. We are aware of the increasing problem of drug misuse throughout the country and within our community. Our school will play a full part in contributing to efforts across our community to reduce drug misuse. To this end, we are committed to working with our parents. We will ensure parents are informed about their children’s drug education and the school rules in relation to drugs.

2. Drug education curriculum

Drug education within the school is mainly delivered as part of the PSHE and scheme of work. It also forms part of the statutory science curriculum.

The goal of drug and alcohol education is:

For pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

The learning objectives for drug and alcohol education include:

Attitudes and Values.

- to examine own opinions and values, and those of others
- to promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self-safe
- to enhance self-awareness and self-esteem

- to value and respect self and others to value diversity and difference within society
- to promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs

Personal and Social Skills

- to identify risks to health
- to communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals
- to learn how to give and secure help
- to develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug use
- to develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- to be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media
- to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- to be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- to develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

Knowledge and Understanding

to develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs

to gain an understanding of how the body functions

to gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use to gain an understanding of the role of drugs in society and the laws and rules relating to their use

to gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have worries and an understanding of confidentiality

to gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change.

The PSHE Lead is Neisha Morris. Their role includes: planning the drug education curriculum via the KAPOW scheme of work for PSHE, monitoring its delivery, coordination and assessment. In our school we deliver PSHE through discrete, planned lessons, as well as through coordinated cross-curricular teaching.

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used in PSHE together with carefully selected teaching materials. There is a place for didactic teaching, together with active learning approaches, such as role-play, small group work, problem solving and discussion.

Ground rules are used in PSHE to establish a safe, secure and supportive learning environment, which emphasises the promotion of relevant personal skills. Pupils are shown respect for personal privacy and time is taken to explain the implications of personal disclosures. The teaching and learning approaches also include a variety of methods and strategies that meet the needs of a range of attainment levels of our pupils and their diverse needs

We welcome the involvement of visitors from external agencies to complement the core delivery by teaching staff. All visitors are supported in the classroom by a teacher and are informed about the school's drug education policy and the scheme of work for PSHC.

3. Confidentiality and child protection

Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to: safeguarding and child protection, co-operation with a police investigation or referral to an external service. Adults cannot and should not promise total confidentiality.

It may be necessary to invoke safeguarding and child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. In such circumstances, the member of staff will inform the designated (or deputy) safeguarding lead, of any concerns. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a pupil or parent, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home. Where there is disclosure of illegal substance use by a pupil, parents will be informed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

4. Drug related situations

A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs.

We do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on the school premises will be reported to the police. The designated senior member of staff for drug related situations is: Headteacher, Mr Robert Webb.

The following will guide staff's response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse. Initial response and investigation

- Inform Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) – who will guide investigation, ensure written record is made and report to the police.
- Contact parents / carers;
- Consider contacting chair of governors, LA and other support services;
- Consider sanctions / support needs of pupil(s) involved (including witnesses);
- Draw up and implement action plan.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents, vapes or illegal substances found on pupils will be confiscated. If necessary a pupil will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent / carer.

Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a pupil is discovered with tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal drugs, then the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and Suspension and Exclusion Policy will be followed. The support and safeguarding and child protection needs will also be considered, dependent upon individual circumstances.

The school has the powers, with police assistance if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of pupils during the journey to and from school is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a pupil due to parent or carer intoxication, discussion will be held with the adult and consideration given to moving the pupil to a safer environment and / or finding alternative means of travel home.

5. Health and Safety and medicines

Please see Health and Safety Policy for additional information.

The safety of the individual and of all others on the school site are the most important concern. If a pupil, visitor or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of any drug or substance which adversely affects their judgement, disciplinary action will be taken.

Should any drug related paraphernalia be discovered on the school site, most will be handled within existing health & safety procedures using safety equipment such as disposable gloves, and will be bagged up and disposed of in the rubbish/clinical waste/sharps bin, as appropriate. A written record will be kept of suspicious paraphernalia. Pupils will be advised to not touch suspect items, such as discarded injecting equipment, but report the matter to a member of staff. The member of staff will ensure safety is maintained, until appropriate disposal of the item(s) is undertaken.

Solvents or hazardous chemicals legitimately used carefully by school staff or pupils and are locked away securely in the school office or headteachers office aa managed in a way to prevent inappropriate access or use.

The approach to access and administration of medicines is set out in the school's Medical Policy. The principles underlying this are to:

- Recognise individual medical needs and promote inclusion to provide an education for all pupils, supporting their medical needs.
- Undertake to contact parents and carers if a pupil is ill during the school day.

The school provides for the safe and secure storage of medicines:

- all adults are responsible for the secure storage of their own medication

- Zoe Elwick, Administration Officer, is responsible for the secure storage of pupils' (prescribed) medication.

Staff only administer medicines if written parental consent has been provided and agreed to by the school and the member of staff. This may involve additional training for members of staff involved in offering assistance, which may also include assistance with surgical appliances (e.g. artificial limbs) and medical aids (e.g. hearing aids).

Emergency aid

Summoning medical help such as the qualified first aider, or an ambulance is crucial, but in the interim period emergency aid should be applied as follows:

If staff have any suspicions that a pupil is intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance, care should be taken to not chase or overexcite the pupil. Strenuous activity for volatile substance misusers can increase the risk of sudden death. The pupil should be kept calm until the effects have worn off.

6. Educational visit/social events

The school's drug and substance misuse policy applies during school visits and all events associated with the school.

7. Implementation, monitoring and review

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors. Verbal feedback will include evaluative feedback from pupils, as well as teaching and support staff. Opportunities will be made to inform parents about their children's drug education.

APPENDIX 1 – Definition of a drug and information about drugs of misuse.

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions.

All medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.

Drugs include legally controlled substances such as: caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, solvents, amyl nitrate (poppers), as well as substances used for medical purposes, whether sold over the counter or prescribed, such as: antihistamines, antibiotics, tranquillisers and illegal substances such as: cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine, LSD. Possession of some prescription-only medicines, such as Temazepam and Ritalin, is illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act if no prescription is held.

These lists are not definitive and there may be some overlap of the categories.

Substance	Effects	Risks	Legal Position
Tobacco	Relaxation, headache, bad breath, reduced appetite	Bad cough, cancer, heart attack, breathless	Illegal to sell to anyone under 16
Alcohol	Relaxation, lose inhibitions, loss of control, vomiting, violence, drowsiness	Liver damage, impairs decision making and judgement	Illegal to sell to anyone under 18 (as a general rule).
Cannabis / marijuana	Lack of co-ordination, related heart rate increase, happy loss of inhibitions, can cause panic	Long term may cause lung disease and psychotic illness. Loss of memory, impaired judgement	Class C. Illegal to grow or supply
Solvents / gas	Facial rash, stomach cramps, lack of co-ordination, aggressive behaviour, weird visions, headaches, light headed, relaxing	Death from asphyxiation or heart seizure. Psychological dependence. Choking on vomit. Possible damage to lungs, kidneys, liver, heart and central nervous system	Illegal to sell to under 18s knowing it will be abused
Amphetamines	Initially energetic and confident, but anxiety and restlessness can follow	High doses can produce delirium, panic, paranoia or depression, heart failure, damaged blood vessels	Class B. Illegal to possess or supply (unless prescribed)
MDMA / Ecstasy	Increased energy and colour perception, feelings of well-being, increased	Can lead to anxiety, panic, insomnia, hypothermia and dehydration. Some evidence of liver damage	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply

	thirst, head and muscle ache		
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Substance	Effects	Risks	Legal Position
LSD	Hallucinogenic effects, including intensified colours and sounds, or even out of body experiences. Effects are dependent on the strength of the dose.	Difficult to identify strength of dose. Experiences can be emotionally disturbing (bad trip) leading to anxiety. Flashbacks can occur.	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.
Hallucinogenic mushrooms / magic mushrooms	Similar to LSD experience	Main risk is picking and eating a poisonous mushroom by mistake	Class A if processed - cooked, dried or made into tea
Amyl Nitrate	Blood vessels dilate causing a rushing sensation to head, lose balance, increased energy. May enhance sexual pleasure. Effects are short lived.	Vomiting, shock, unconsciousness, heart attack, dizziness, headache, palpitations	Currently no legal restrictions on use or supply
Anabolic Steroids	Increase strength, speed, aggression and competitiveness. Enables more intensive training for longer.	Restriction on growth, spinal problems, menstrual abnormalities, voice changes, increase in hair growth	Possession for personal use not illegal. Supply is illegal, with Class C penalties.
Heroin	Euphoria, reduced anxiety and pain levels. Slow heart rate and breathing. Can cause constipation. Appetite loss.	Highly addictive. Difficult to identify strength of dose and what it is mixed with. Danger of overdose. Injecting causes abscess and other infections including septicaemia and HIV	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.
Cocaine/ Crack	Feelings of exhilaration, strength and well being. Decreased hunger, indifference to pain and fatigue. Effects relatively short term.	Comedown can bring on depression, anxiety and fatigue. Excessive doses may cause death from respiratory or heart failure. Long term use may lead to paranoid psychosis.	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.

APPENDIX 2

Support Agencies

If you are worried about your alcohol or drug use, you should discuss your concerns with your GP. Your GP can assess the nature of your problem and help you choose the most appropriate treatment.

North Yorkshire Council's Healthy Living webpage provides Help, advice and support related to alcohol or drug use. [Drugs and alcohol | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Visit the NHS website for [further advice about alcohol support](#) or to [find drug addiction support near you](#).

[Frank](#) offers a live [chat facility on their website, email support](#), an SMS number – 82111 and a 24 hour telephone helpline – 0300 123 6600.

[QUIT](#) gives advice and support to give up cigarette smoking. Telephone 0800 002200. Email advice stopsmoking@quit.org.uk

[Families Anonymous](#) provide help for families of drug users. Telephone helpline 0207 498 4680.

[Release](#) provide advice and help with legal issues.

Narcotics Anonymous – this is a network of self help groups for drug users based on the Alcoholics Anonymous approach Tel. 020 7730 0009. Email helpline: NAhelpline@ukna.org
[Adfam](#) – a national charity for families and friends of drug users. They may be in contact with family support groups in your area.

[Famanon](#) – Involved in support groups for parents and families of drug users in different parts of the country. Helpline is 0207 498 4680

