

Substance use and Misuse Education Policy

Date Reviewed:	March 2024
Next Review:	March 2026
Review Cycle:	Every 2 years
Reviewing committee:	Governing Body
Lead Governor Responsible:	Gareth Evans (Chair of Governors)
Reviewers:	Headteacher and SLT
Linked Policies:	PSHE
Ratification Date:	March 2024
Signed by Headteacher:	
Signed by Chair of Governors:	

Rationale

At Hook Junior School we aim to provide accurate information about, and increase understanding of drug use and misuse issues through a programme tailored to the age as well as physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Hook Junior School has a whole-school approach to drugs as part of its commitment to being a healthy school. The policy aims to enable pupils to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. This is done by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing students' confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

This policy identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum and takes account of the guidance from the DfE Drug Advice for Schools 2012: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

Overview

This drugs policy covers not only illegal drugs (such as cannabis, heroin and ecstasy) but legal ones too, like alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and drugs sold over the counter or provided on prescription. Although the majority of young people of school-age do not abuse drugs, all students are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Such experiments may lead to serious and far reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For children and young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

The appendices in this policy name the relevant drugs and set out the procedures agreed by the governing body to be followed when any misuse has been identified. To protect the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff, drugs must not be possessed or bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. The policy and procedures apply to all adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions will be made for pupils and staff who need to take prescribed medicines.

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally.

For the purpose of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicine
- Drugs paraphernalia- items such as canisters, cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes.

Aims

The essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts - appropriate to their age and level of understanding - to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. we aim to equip children with the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

The following objectives have been prioritised:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs. o consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.

- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practise the skills they need to avoid misuse of drugs.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their use, misuse, benefits and harm. Ensure that parents and the community are informed of our policy.
- To establish procedures for responding to drug incidents
- To develop a whole-school approach to drug education in the context of the Science curriculum and the Personal, Social, and Health Education programme.
- To provide an environment where pupils feel safe in discussing their views/experiences of drug use/misuse.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- the senior leadership team is appointed to have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy a planned drug education programme is provided as part of the curriculum, that enhances knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills.
- teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents.
- students are aware of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them.
- clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents.
- those students who have a concern about drugs are provided with support.
- sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's discipline policy.
- the school actively co-operates with external agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

All **staff** are expected to:

- report incidents of drug misuse to a member of the senior leadership team and behaviour manager
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

All **teachers** are expected to:

- implement the drug education programme and attend associated training to increase their understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising

personal skills to resist peer group pressure, and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse.

- provide accurate information about substances.
- widen their own and the students' understanding of related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.

Students will be expected to:

- follow the school rules.
- alert the staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the school site.

Parents will be encouraged to:

- endorse the school's approach to drugs education
- work in partnership with the school to overcome the misuse of drugs.

The **Governing Body** will ensure that:

- the school does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, consumption or supply of any controlled drug in addition to solvents, alcohol and tobacco.
- the school, parents and external agencies work together to support any student involved in drug abuse

The governors' Discipline Committee understands how to deal with drug-related exclusion procedures.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

Appendix 1: List of Relevant Drugs

Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs include:

- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Cannabis (any form e.g. hash, grass, pot, marijuana, dope, oil)
- Ketamine
- Ecstasy / MDMA
- Cocaine
- Crack
- Hallucinogens: natural
- Hallucinogens: synthetic
- Heroin
- Opiates
- Muscle-building steroids
- Methadone (Miaow)
- Tranquillisers

Class A	Class B	Class C
Ecstasy	Cannabis	Tranquillisers
LSD	Synthetic cannabinoids	Some painkillers
Heroin	Amphetamines	Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB)
Cocaine	Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	Ketamine
Crack	Pholcodine	
Magic Mushrooms		
Amphetamines (if prepared for injection).		

Class A, B and C drugs are termed as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Class A drugs are considered most harmful.

Legal drugs

Legal drugs include:

- Alcohol
- Prescription drugs
- Solvents
- Tobacco
- Poppers

For further information regarding legal and illegal drugs is available on the 'Frank' website, www.talktofrank.com.

Appendix 2: Guidelines for Management Of Drugs Within The School Community

Principles of good practice

- For any drug incident, the utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help.
- The school has a range of responses to drug incidents. Any response will balance the needs of the individual against those of the wider community and should be determined after a full and careful investigation
- Clear referral protocols and communication routes will be established between the school and the range of agencies providing support to young people. In making referrals careful attention will be given to issues of confidentiality.
- In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs the school involve the student's parents/carers, unless this would jeopardise the student's safety.
- Hook Junior School will make a full record of every incident.

The following section offers guidance on:

- Drug Incidents
- Management responsibilities;
- Confidentiality;
- Schools and the law;
- The role of the police;
- Disposal of illegal and other unauthorised drugs;
- Searching, and detection of drugs;
- Summary.
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Definition of a drug incident

Incidents are likely to involve suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs. They could fit into the following categories:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia, e.g. Rizlas, are found on school premises
- a student is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- a student is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- a student, parent/carers or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in

- the local area.
- A student discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

Management responsibilities

It is vital as an organisation that we send a clear message to the whole school community that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs, for example 'legal highs' within school boundaries is unacceptable.

Hook Junior School has designated responsibility for the management of drug incidents to a senior member of staff. Through this policy all staff will be made fully aware of the procedures for managing incidents, including who they should inform and who has authority regarding issues such as searching school property and involving the police.