

Drugs Policy



**Agreed by Governors
February 2016**

Purpose of the policy

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and ensure that it is appropriate to pupil's needs. This policy contains guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incidents for pupils, teachers, parents, governors, support-staff, outside agencies and individuals. The policy also applies to any contractors working on site and to anyone else hiring the school premises.

Definitions and terminology

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- *alcohol and tobacco*
- *'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches*
- *prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers*
- *volatile substances such as glues and aerosols*
- *illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy*
- *new psychoactive substances (NPS) often referred to as 'legal highs'.*

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs.

Handling and Reporting incidents

A suspected drugs related incident is described as

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- An adult suspected of being under the influence of illicit drugs

Procedures for handling drugs related incidents are outlined in Appendix A (Page 8 of Norfolk's Drug and Alcohol Advice to Schools-2014).

The Head Teacher is the member of staff who has key responsibility for drugs, including being responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drugs misuse. However, all staff are made aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be

followed. If a search needs to be made the Head Teacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

Confidentiality

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure and the Head Teacher is to be informed.

Drugs Education within the Curriculum

Drugs education should not be seen as a one off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drugs education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drugs issues.

Drugs education is specifically included within the Programmes of Study for Science, and within other subjects, such as PSHE, English, and Physical Education, there are opportunities for considering drugs-related issues from a variety of perspectives.

Links with other school policies

Other policies provide additional related guidance such as the PSHE policy, behaviour policy, safeguarding policy, health and safety policy, medical administration and procedure policy, and staff code of conduct policy.

Aims and objectives of the Drug Education programme

The school's drugs education programme is grounded in the following aims and objectives:

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drugs abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

Objectives

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug related issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drugs exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drugs culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

Delivery of the Drugs Education Programme

Drugs Education is a whole staff issue. Falcon Junior School ensures that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to the policy, which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum. Where possible, staff receive in-service training on drug issues, including First Aiders being up-to-date on drug-related First Aid.

Outside Agencies

Falcon Junior School may use outside agencies to help delivery the drug education programme such as the Local Authority, police, health and drugs agencies, including the Matthew Project. When using outside agencies, teachers must ensure that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head Teacher has given approval for the use of the outside agency.
- DBS disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education.

Links with parents, community and the police

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drugs misuse. They are aware of the school's drugs policy and they should be involved fully in the education of their child. This is especially so with the drugs education programmes. Parents are

encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and discuss drugs issues when appropriate. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

Falcon Junior School has a good working relationship with the local police. This helps to ensure that if a drug related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

The school aims to work closely with parents to ensure the health and well-being of its pupils. Therefore, staff can administer medicine to pupils as long as the appropriate paperwork has been completed (See the policy on medical administration and procedure).

Monitoring and Evaluating

The school drugs education policy is periodically reviewed by staff and governors to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drugs use. The programmes of study for drugs education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

The induction of new staff and governors will include introduction to this policy.

The policy is available on the website and to parents free on request from the office.

APPENDIX A: Responding to incidents involving drugs

