



# **DRUG POLICY**

**June 2025**

**Next Review: June 2027**

**Approved by: Headteacher**

This policy was written using the 2017 Drug Strategy and DfE/ACPO Drug Advice for School 2012 with additional advice and Local Authority information from the PSHE Advisory Team.

## **The Purpose of the Policy**

Glade Hill Primary and Nursery School is committed to a healthy, preventative environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances ie medicines: tobacco and alcohol) - by pupils, staff or visitors, nor the illegal or unauthorised supply of these substances is condoned.

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils

We wish to continuously work towards being a drug aware school in all aspects of school life, providing an environment, ethos and curriculum that supports and prepares pupils for the choices they may be required to make in a drug-using world.

## **Where and to Whom the Policy Applies**

This policy encompasses all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), all illegal drugs, volatile substances (solvents and gasses) and over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies to staff, pupils and visitors to the school, not only within the school boundaries defined by the boundary fence and gates at the front of the building and the boundary fence along the sides and back of the building and on all school visits but also on trips and residential activities, including those made outside of normal school hours.

It will also be upheld on all school buses and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

Other policies that relate to the implementation of this policy are:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Behaviour policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- PSHE and Citizenship policy

## **Aims and objectives**

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We wish to continuously work towards providing an environment, ethos and curriculum that supports and prepares pupils for the choices they may be required to make in a drug-using world.

## **The objectives of our drugs education programme are:**

- ✓ to provide children with knowledge and information about drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- ✓ to enable children to discuss moral and health questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- ✓ to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- ✓ to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- ✓ to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- ✓ to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral, as well as a health issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- ✓ to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

## **Education**

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. We encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons, we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Drugs education forms a part of the statutory Science Curriculum and is also delivered in the context of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. We ensure that opportunities are secured across the curriculum for drugs education and a broad range of up to date resources are available to support this. The PSHE Drug Education lessons are based on the needs of young people, gathering information through surveys and discussion. Teaching methods offer a variety of opportunities for active learning and include; circle time, group discussions, role-play and drama. Ground rules are negotiated prior to starting the sessions and pupils' knowledge assessed to ensure the appropriateness of the content.

Education concentrates on the drugs most relevant to the age and experiences of the young people such as medicines, tobacco and alcohol. Pupils are encouraged to acknowledge their feelings about other people's drug or alcohol use and to build resilience skills. It is important to maintain confidentiality during discussions but, as in all areas of school life, the safeguarding of a young person is of utmost importance. Sharing of any information is done sensitively, kept to a minimum and on a strictly need to know basis in order to retain the trust of pupils and parents/carers.

## **Support from visitors**

The school appreciates the valuable contribution of outside agencies, but recognises that their contribution alone does not constitute a complete drug education programme. We believe it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the contributions made by visitors to the classroom reflect our own philosophy and approach to the subject. This includes the DARE – Life Skills programme for Year 6 children.

## **Alcohol, Drugs and Support for Children and Families**

We acknowledge that in today's society it may be likely that young people may encounter drugs such as alcohol or cannabis. We will offer a curriculum that reflects children's experiences and does not seek to scare, judge, sensationalise or stereotype in relation to substances, opting instead for a pro-health choice approach through PSHE.

We will provide pupils with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drugs issues. This will be through:

- School Staff
- Senior Mental Health and Well-being Lead
- DSLs

## **The School Environment**

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other drug-using equipment are found discarded in the school premises. Similarly if illicit substances are found or confiscated these will be safely stored and arrangements made with the police for their safe disposal.

A no-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. The policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises. This includes 'vaping' and the use of e-cigarettes.

The use of alcohol by all members of the school community, including visitors, is prohibited.

## **Management of Medication at School and on School Trips**

The school acknowledges that, parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition, this will be recorded on an admissions form stored in the main office or on a medicines information form provided by the office.

Children with asthma are allowed to keep their inhalers with them in school. Children who have been prescribed an 'Epipen' or other epinephrine autoinjector must keep their device in a bag nearby their person at all times. These must be clearly labelled with the child's name and the date when provided. **No other medicines are allowed in school.** The only exceptions to this are if the medication forms part of a child's IHP and training has been provided to staff or, in exceptional circumstances, where a signed agreement has been made with the Headteacher. Parents/ carers will be encouraged, wherever possible, to organise a child's medication so that it does not need to be taken at school, without this being detrimental to a child's treatment. Where this is not possible parents will need to complete a parental consent form with the office that details the medication needed. The medication must be labelled with the child's correct name and be in date.

Additional information will be provided by parents/ carers if pupils are going on trips or residentials and a designated staff member will carry the medication and be responsible for its safe storage and administration in line with the policy.

Any medicine to be administered in school must be stored securely at all times either in a

fridge within a staff area (if required) or in a locked cupboard within the classroom. A form must be completed each time the medicine has been administered as a record for staff and parents.

Further details can be found in the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' policy based on 'managing medicines in schools and early years settings 2007' and the Health and Safety Policy.

### **The Role of the Head teacher**

The Head Teacher is permitted by law to authorise personal and property searches for drugs if there are reasonable suspicions that they are being concealed. The police will be involved in an advisory capacity where serious incidents occur but the school will deal with minor incidents internally as advised by the ACPO guidance. The school will be clear on how it will apply sanctions and support for serious or repeated offences involving the use or supply of drugs and alcohol, including options to involve police in prosecution. As a school, we can have a role in early intervention with young people around drug use and so will prioritise intervention and behaviour change support for young people involved in incidents, making sure they, and their parents/carers understand the consequences and seriousness of their behaviour now and potentially on their future. Parents will be informed of incidents unless there is a reason not to (such as an ongoing investigation or a safeguarding concern).

### **Transitions**

*Advisory note: Evidence shows that both Transition and Permanent Exclusion significantly raise the probability of involvement in substances for already vulnerable students. If drugs are already involved in this scenario then the concern is particularly high.*

If a pupil is excluded or involved in a managed move, or if they have known issues around substances (either their own or family), this will be addressed in their transition plans and discussed with appropriate staff.