



Policy:	Drug Education Policy
Policy Date:	Autumn 2024
Review Cycle:	3 Years
Reviewer:	FGB
Approved:	Autumn 2024
Next Review:	Autumn 2027

Rationale:

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: “A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”. This is also used by the DFE in its drugs guidance.

This refers to all drugs:

- Legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and poppers;
- Over the counter and prescription medicines;
- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD;
- Other drugs such as anabolic steroids, volatile substances (solvents),

The school believes that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and that experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people’s lives.

It is the responsibility of schools to help reduce harm from drugs, to play a role in drug education and to help those who misuse drugs.

This policy sets out Chawton CE Primary School’s approach to drug education. In developing this policy the school has considered its legal responsibility, in conjunction with the needs of the pupils, teachers, governors, parents and the local community.

This policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school
- Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education

We aim to provide pupils with knowledge so that in later life they will be able to make informed decisions about drugs. We also believe it is important for pupils to discuss attitudes and build skills to resist peer group pressure in relationship to drug-use.

We believe that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and fosters positive self-images, which may help pupils cope better in situations involving drug

To achieve this, our Personal Development programme helps 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

‘Let all that you do, be done in love.’ 1 Corinthians 16:14

‘Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’ Joshua 1: 5-9

‘If we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...’ 1 John 1-7

- Develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others

Drug education is taught through Personal Development as part of 'Health and Well-being' and 'Living in the Wider World' and through relevant topics in science e.g. Animals, including Humans. Drug Education may also be delivered through opportunities in other areas of the curriculum, for example, persuasive writing and teaching opportunities will respond to necessary 'Wider World' events. The teaching programme ensures that there is progression with topics and issues being included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.

Key Stage 1 focuses on medicines and how to be safe, being ill and getting better; being safe with household substances and risks. Key Stage 2 focuses on effects and risks of smoking and alcohol; resisting pressure to do wrong and making safe decisions.

Our Personal Development programme is adapted from the DfE recommended Drug education curriculum for KS1 & 2 (see Appendix 1) and also SCARF.

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to school policy. We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

The Head Teacher and Governors are responsible for the overall monitoring of the Quality of Education within the Personal Development framework.

If a child shares information in relation to drugs and the teacher believes that a child is at risk or in danger, they will talk to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Headteacher), or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in their absence, following school policy for Child Protection Procedures.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

Routine arrangements

Medicines

The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Headteacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

Tobacco

The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on the school premises, they will be confiscated.

Solvents

The school will ensure potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and the pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (only exception permitted is aerosol Ventolin/any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored in a locked medicine cupboard.)

Illegal Drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community, regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours or reports of drug possession, supply or drug use

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibility 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 will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

Procedures

Medical emergencies

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

Hearsay/rumour

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed onto the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of teacher's concerns to be compiled. Where hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one school year, the evidence will be removed from the records.

Suspicious behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

Finding substances

If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a pupil, the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval
- The size and appearance of the substance
- The names of those concerned
- The action taken

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes; they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents will be informed.

Searching

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteacher, or her 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 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.

Finding drugs

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the pupil is paramount.

In all instances:

- Separate the child from the rest of the group
- Decide and implement next steps to ensure the child's welfare
- Inform parents

Supply of illegal substances

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Returning articles which have been confiscated

Articles confiscated and are not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours.

Staff Training and Support

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will endeavour to organise training related to the identified needs of staff as notified and required.

Appendix 1

DfE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The following outline teaching programme illustrates the topics that might be covered in a drug education programme at each key stage. The plan is not intended to be definitive or prescriptive and there is a degree of overlap in content between key stages.

KEY STAGE 1 KEY STAGE 2

Knowledge relating to medicine:

- Understanding to medicines; alcohol, tobacco, solvents & illegal drugs.
- More detailed information how the body works and ways of looking after the and how to take care of your body
- Different types of medicine (both prescribed and over the counter) legal, and illegal drugs including in promoting their form, their effects on the people use them

Introduction to the law relating to

- Understanding that all the use of legal and illegal drugs
- Drugs can be harmful if not used properly People who can help children when they have questions about medicines and other substances used in the home.
- Dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles
- Consideration of alcohol effects on the body and on behaviour and the effects of tobacco
- People who are involved with medicines (such as health professionals, pharmacists, shopkeepers)
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns

Skills

- Communicating feelings and identifying risks such as concerns about illness and taking medicines.
- Decision making and copying with peers influences
- When and how to get assertiveness in situations and help from adults relating to drug use
- Valuing one's body and valuing oneself and other people
- Attitudes towards the use advertising presentations of alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs
- Responses to media and advertising presentations
- Taking responsibility for one's of medicines, alcohol own safety and behaviour and smoking.

Appendix 2

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/drugs-guidance>

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf/>