



West Byfleet Infant School
We Belong, Inspire, Succeed

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY



Our school vision is 'We Belong, Inspire, Succeed'. This reminds us daily that children need to feel safe and secure within the school community, have opportunities to inspire their interests and an enthusiasm for learning, as well as achieving success at all levels.

West Byfleet Infant School is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style.

Member of staff responsible	Head teacher / Leadership team
Date Policy Produced	Summer 2023
Policy agreed/last reviewed	Summer 2025
Next review date	Summer 2027
Other Related Policies	Safeguarding policy Health and Safety policy Administration of Medicine policy
Is it a Statutory Policy?	No
Does it need Governor approval?	No

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Through this we aim to:

- Encourage our pupils to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.
- We will teach our pupils at an age-appropriate level that the misuse of substances can have serious negative consequences for them and those around them through our PHSE Curriculum.
- To develop an understanding of the role of drugs as a medicine.
- To develop an understanding that household products including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.
- To promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles.
- To encourage and enable pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.
- To enable pupils to make reasoned, informed choices.
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for pupils

Expectations

In KS1, children will learn about substance misuse (household products / medicines etc) via planned PSHE lessons. Objectives will be accessible on the school's Curriculum page via the website for parents to view prior to teaching on the school's website.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers will teach the drugs and substance knowledge via the usual pre-planned PSHE lessons – set out into year groups. If occasions arise where the learning needs to be revisited, this can be done based on the needs of the cohort / class etc. We aim to teach children about the rules and laws relating to drugs and explore the complex moral, social, emotional issues surrounding drugs / household substances.

Curriculum

In the Early Years our children learn about the importance of exercise, a healthy diet and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe. They are aware of how to manage their basic hygiene and personal needs.

The PSHE statutory curriculum for KS1 outlines that KS1 children should be able to identify:

- What is a medicine?
- Who should give you medicine?
- How can we tell what medicine is?
- To know what medicine is and who can give it to them
- To understand that household products can be harmful

Safeguarding

All staff work within the confidentiality and child protection policies. Children will be encouraged to discuss any concerns with their parents or class teacher. Teachers having any concern about the children in their care should report to the DSL or DDSL. Staff are all aware of the Safeguarding policy and will never promise to keep total confidentiality and all procedures will be followed.

Disclosure

When a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use staff will be non-judgemental and caring and show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that staff cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or a DSL should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply;

- The Headteacher and members of the Leadership Team will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking into account the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/Carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police, will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Staff misuse

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within the school boundaries is unacceptable. Misuse is not the same thing as dependence. Drug and alcohol misuse is the use of illegal drugs and misuse of alcohol, medicines and substances such as solvents.

Consider these warning signs, which could indicate drug or alcohol misuse:

- unexplained or frequent absences
- a change in behaviour
- unexplained dips in productivity
- more accidents or near-misses
- performance or conduct issues

These can also be signs of other things, like stress or illness.

If a member of staff finds any substance on the school premises which they suspect of being harmful or illegal they should report it to Head Teacher / member of SLT. The substance should then be removed, in the presence of a witness (member of SLT), and seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness (member of SLT) present; If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police will be informed. The police would be informed immediately and the local Police Liaison Officer

for support. They would collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols.

Child misuse

If a substance is removed from a child, this must be done in the presence of a witness. It should be stored in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff. The child's parents should be informed as soon as possible of the incident. If a child is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school would prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them.

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, 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 should be informed.

Safe Working Procedures

Prescribed medications and exceptional circumstances will be outlined in the administration of medicines policy. Information may also be outlined specifically in a child's EHCP / care plan with advice from the SENDCo.

Medical emergencies

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