



Shenfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Ratified: June 2025 Review due: Summer 2028

Vision Statement:

Unlock every child's potential as a unique child of God

Our aim is to ensure that every child's unique strengths are celebrated and strengthened alongside gaining an excellent academic, social, emotional and physical education.

In line with the school's Christian ethos the school is committed to the health, safety and welfare of its community and will take action to safeguard their well-being in order to reach their potential as children of God.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of children and will seek to support children as they develop an awareness of both legal and illegal substances.

The school believes that as a part of its care of the welfare of its pupils, it has a duty to inform and educate the children about the role of drugs as medicines and about the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school believes that health education is a vital part of the PSHE & Citizenship education of every pupil and is committed to discouraging the misuse of drugs at all times.

Fundamental to our school's values and practices is the principle of sharing the responsibilities of the education of the children with their parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

BACKGROUND AND DEFINITIONS

A "drug" is a substance, which, when taken into the body changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works. This policy not only covers the use of illegal substances but also involves misuse of prescribed medicines, tobacco, alcohol and solvents.

"Drug misuse" is defined as the non-medical (i.e. recreational) use of drugs that are only intended for use in medical treatment, and the use of drugs that have no accepted medical purpose. Such drugs are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971,

DRUG EDUCATION IN SCHOOL: THE AIMS

We believe in and support the following aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practicing skills.

- To provide accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco, as well as illegal substances.
- To increase understanding among everyone in the school community about the implication and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To encourage an understanding of those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. crime, homelessness.

These aims are best delivered through a well-planned programme of Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE) which links with the Every Child Matters outcomes of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

DRUGS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL: THE CURRICULUM

Drug education is taught primarily as part of PSHCE but also as part of the Science curriculum. Lessons are delivered by the class teacher, who may be supported by another member of staff or a “visitor” who has some expert knowledge e.g. the School Nurse, Community Police Officer.

As with all aspects of the PSHCE curriculum, pupils will be given opportunities to increase their knowledge, understanding and skills in order that they can develop appropriate attitudes towards their own health and that of others.

RESPONDING TO DRUGS USE IN SCHOOL

I. Procedure regarding legal substances:

The whole school is designated a “smoke free” site.

Alcohol may be consumed by parents/guardians during whole school social events or fundraising events that take place outside of the school day (e.g. Summer Fayre and where parents or carers are not acting in a supervisory PFA role i.e. a school disco).

The consumption of alcohol by staff may not occur during the school day and on the school premises. If no children are on site, consumption of alcohol by staff will only occur for the purpose of an act of celebration (Thank-you, birthday etc.).

The school has a policy for administration of prescribed medicines.

The school will ensure potentially harmful substances are safely stored and pupils supervised carefully if they have to be used during school time.

In the event of any pupil being found in possession of tobacco or alcohol, that pupil will be referred to the Head of school who will immediately contact the parents to arrange for them to visit the school and discuss the situation.

II. Procedure for the dealing with illegal substances:

No illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on the school premises.

Any case will be judged on its particular circumstances but it is likely that a pupil caught in possession of an illegal substance in school, during a school organised activity, or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains, may be given, at the very least a Fixed-Term Exclusion from school. Further sanctions, including Permanent Exclusion from school, would be likely to be applied to any pupil who is proven to have supplied an illegal substance to another pupil during the school day, during a school organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains.

The school will decide if and when to inform the police in accordance with current police guidelines. The Local Authority Drug Education Consultant may also be contacted for support & guidance.

Disciplinary action will be taken against staff involved in any of the above.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Head of school based on evaluation of teachers' planning. The Governors will hold responsibility for evaluating and reviewing the impact of this policy.

Approved by the governing body:

The policy will be reviewed in line with the School Development Plan