



Let your light shine
(Matthew 5:16)

Discover - Value - Celebrate - Praise

Drug Education and Management of Drug Related Incidents Policy

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Denver VC Primary School
On:-	10th May 2023
Chair of Governors:-	Carole Reich
Last updated:-	25th June 2020

Aims

At Denver VC Primary we are committed to the health and safety of our school community and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing. We recognise the harm that all drugs can cause, be they illegal, legal or medicines.

The school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug) within the school site. These rules apply equally to all staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and visitors.

As part of our care for the welfare of our pupils, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate children on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

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

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

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills
- To provide accurate information about substances if appropriate (children/parents)
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To enable children to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The policy will:

- provide a framework for developing a consistent approach to working with young people in relation to drugs
- encourage cross-community and inter-agency approaches to Drug Education
- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.

These aims are delivered in the taught curriculum mainly through Science and RSHE, but other opportunities to reinforce learning may occur in other areas of the curriculum. This includes through our links with the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind programme, delivered by King's Lynn Community Football Foundation and the annual Crucial Crew event held for pupils in Year 6 at King's Lynn Fire Station.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- RSHE
- Safeguarding

- Medical Conditions
- Administration of Medicines
- Equalities Policy Statement
- Behaviour
- Health & Safety

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, visitors and partner agencies working in the school. It covers activities on the school site, school visits and on school transport.

Definitions

Throughout the policy we use the following definitions:

A drug: any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves (World Health Organisation).

The term embraces medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore, “drug” includes alcohol, tobacco (including e cigarettes/vaping), volatile substances solvents, aerosols etc.), medicines, legal highs and illegal drugs.

Medicines

In most cases staff do not administer medicines at school to a pupil unless it would be detrimental to health not to administer them and only with parental written consent. Details about managing medicines can be found in our policy on Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions.

Smoking

This school operates a strict no smoking policy in the building and grounds and in any transport being used for school purposes. This policy applies to all users.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol should only be consumed on the school premises with 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.

If alcohol is authorised at school, for example at a PTA event, the arrangements for storage or use should be agreed and adhered to. It is an offence under the Licensing Act 1964 to sell alcohol without a licence. However, no licence would be needed by the school to offer alcohol at school events where no sale takes place. Any alcohol found in pupils' possession would be confiscated and returned to parents.

Illegal substances

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs on the school premises is wholly unacceptable and would be reported to the Police.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Children and Young People's Service and appropriate outside agencies.

The Headteacher will ensure that staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher and any relevant agencies and if appropriate the police will be notified. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved. All incidents will be recorded.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents.

The Headteacher will ensure staff receive access to appropriate training and advice.

Drugs Education

Education about drugs will be delivered as part of the RSHE and science curriculum in an age-appropriate and progressive manner.

Management Drug Related Incidents

A drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries. These can involve a parent/carer collecting their child while under the influence of alcohol; misusing another pupil's inhaler;

disclosing concern about a family member who is abusing drugs; giving medicines to another pupil and the school caretaker finding drugs, or related items, on school premises.

A drug related incident may also include any of the following:

- Finding used syringes in the school grounds
- 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 responsibilities 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/carers are encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

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

- The Headteacher 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

Possible responses might be:

- Support and counselling
- Sanctions- where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions

about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the Behaviour Policy.

Procedures

The following procedures should be followed:

- All drugs or drugs paraphernalia should be taken to the office and stored in a locked cabinet with restricted access
- Staff will not conduct searches of pupils or property; where necessary, the police will be called
- The needs of those involved in any incident should be responded to in line with the school behaviour policy
- When managing pupils or parents under the influence of substances, refer to the Headteacher
- Concern over usage or possible usage of illegal or unauthorised drugs by a pupil or parent/carer should be logged on a concern form and passed to the DSL
- Should an incident require the involvement of the Police, the school will work in partnership with the service

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.

Confidentiality

Information about the use of drugs by pupils or parents/carers will be handled with sensitivity. It will be disclosed only where there is a clear need to share information. However, staff may have to pass on information to fulfil their professional and moral duties in relation to:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external services such as drug agencies.