



Drug Education Policy

‘Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day’

Reviewed By	Lisa Smith	Policy Owner	October 2023
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NEXT REVIEW			November 2025

INTRODUCTION

Shirley 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 and parents / carers the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style. 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. This could be of a physical, psychological, social, financial or legal nature. Throughout the policy the term ‘Drugs’ will refer to tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other substances, which can have a harmful effect whether they be legal or illegal. Substances covered by this policy will be:

- Over-the-counter medicines – e.g. paracetamol, cough medicines
- Prescription medicines – e.g. tranquillisers, amphetamines, anabolic steroids
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Legal highs e.g. caffeine (Psychoactive substances act 2016)
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, heroin, LSD, ecstasy
- Volatile (sniffable) substances – e.g. petrol, alkyl nitrates, butane, aerosols

This is also in line with the Government’s Drugs Strategy “**From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives**” put in place in April 2022

How should we define 'drugs'?

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and also adopted in the DfES document *Drugs: Guidance for schools 2012* is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This includes:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines

AIMS

- 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 develop and reinforce self-esteem in order to promote responsibility and decision-making.
- To say No to bad persuasion and become aware of peer pressure.
- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop.
- To ensure that all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, how they are expected to behave, and the policy regarding drug incidents.
- To ensure that everybody understands how drug incidents will be managed in the school.
- 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 address the needs of the school and local community in relation to drugs, including differences and diversity within the school community.
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for pupils.
- To work with the LA and partner agencies, including the voluntary sector, to secure and support a balanced delivery of a drug education programme.

TEACHING

These aims will be fulfilled through the taught curriculum, aspects of the informal curriculum and will be reflected through the school's ethos. Our drug education provides opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions. The drug education programme will be delivered through PSHE planning which follows DfE statutory guidance (2019) on relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education. Other aspects of drug education will also be taught through statutory parts of science for KS1 and opportunities in other parts of the curriculum. We are aware of the cultural and religious diversity of our community. Drug issues are particularly sensitive, and it will be important to consider how to communicate effectively with parents and community leaders. We endeavour to involve Parents/carers through:

- representation on the parent forum
- questionnaires
- newsletters
- Policies on website
- viewing drug education materials

Our Drug Education is taught through a multiple of different teaching approaches. The children's existing knowledge is taken into account and built upon through a lesson. This could be through a draw and write activity or class discussions. The local health information is reviewed each year and the planning is amended to account for local trends and diversity in the school's community. Through the planning pupils feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary. 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. In Key stage 1 our children learn the facts about legal and illegal substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug taking. Younger children from Key Stage 1 will learn that household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.

Our able children are challenged by having their decision and thinking taken deeper and posed with complex dilemmas to apply concepts to. They are challenged how to resist pressure to do wrong and take more responsibility for their actions. They begin to learn age appropriate effects and risks of alcohol and manage risky situations. When staff teach a PSHE session with a focus on Drug education the same ground rules apply as in the PSHE policy.

PLANNING

Within our planning the following skills are developed:

Knowledge – this will be developed through:

- teaching children about the rules and laws relating to drugs.
- exploring the complex moral, social, emotional issues surrounding drugs.

Skills – we will teach our children the skills to make informed choices to keep themselves safe and healthy. This will be through:

- Discussing scenarios to assess, avoid and manage risks.
- Teaching them to communicate effectively and confidently about their likes and dislikes.
- Saying no to bad persuasion (resisting pressures)
- Knowing who or where to turn to for help
- Developing their self-esteem and self-awareness through our SEAL themes

Attitudes – we will enable our children to explore their own and others attitudes. This will be through:

- Challenging right and wrong
- Understand rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities
- Consider different points of view
- Explore moral, social and cultural issues
- Discuss and debate topical issues

We work closely with the Healthy Schools team with the LA. We currently hold the Gold Healthy high fives Award for healthy Schools.

Cross curricular links are made through PE, English, Maths, Science, Drama and Art.

A range of teaching styles are used to support teachers with their planning. These active approaches are:

- Thought showers/mind mapping
- Circle time
- Creative writing
- Discussions
- Drama
- Group work
- Interactive ICT
- video clips followed by follow –up discussions
- Role play/simulations
- Structured games

Care is always taken when using an above style that it matches the age appropriateness of the group. All activities are adapted to meet the individual's needs and styles are chosen to support groups of learners.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Outside agencies may be involved through organised visits from the school. **The key partner agencies may include:**

- Police
- Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)
- LA Advisory Service Healthy Schools team
- the school nurse
- health promotion staff
- youth and community workers

- voluntary drug services

When an external visitor engages with the children all safeguarding procedures and checks are followed.

Assessment

Work is sampled through the year and across the year groups. The work sampling identifies what knowledge the children have gained and its relevance to them. What skills they have put into practice from previous lesson or topics. Draw and write activities show what children knew at the beginning of the topic and what they learnt at the end, allowing children to reflect on their own progress and understanding. **See PSHE work sampling matrix.**

SMOKING

There is a no smoking policy in the school buildings and the school grounds of Shirley Infants School. This includes cigarette and an **electronic cigarette (e-cig or e-cigarette), personal vaporizer (PV) or electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).**

CONFIDENTIALITY

All staff will work within the confidentiality and child protection and safeguarding policies. Children will be encouraged to discuss any concerns with their parents, or ask for bubble time. Teachers having any concern about the children in their care should report to the Designated Senior Lead (DSL) who are also the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). Staff are all aware of the Safeguarding policy and will never promise to keep total confidentiality. The Child Protection procedures will always be implemented.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The following procedures are supported by the guidance 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies' Sept 2012

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within the school boundaries is unacceptable.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:

FINDING SUBSTANCES

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 the Head Teacher. The substance should then be removed, in the presence of a witness, and seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness 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.

NOTE: The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so.

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. See Health and Safety Policy. 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

necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

In both cases the following will be recorded: full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number, signed by both members of staff and dated.

See Appendix B for ADVICE AND LOCAL SERVICES and help lines [CONTACT DETAILS HERE](#)

FINDING PARAPHERNALIA

If any equipment or paraphernalia associated with drug misuse are found on the school premises they should be handled with caution using appropriate protective clothing. The substance should then be removed, in the presence of a witness, and seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present. The police will then be informed and the disposal of the paraphernalia will be arranged. This is then logged (See Health and Safety Policy for procedures).

THE SUPPLY OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Should a member of staff have any suspicions regarding the supply of illegal drugs on the school premises these will be immediately reported to the Headteacher. The schools Police liaison officer would be contacted.

If a parent/carer is suspected to be under the influence of drugs on the school premises the school staff would attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. The Headteacher would be informed and it would be discussed with the parent that another parent or emergency contact be contacted to come and collect them and accompany them home. If the parent/carer is repeatedly under the influence or violent and safeguarding concerns were raised this would invoke the child protection procedures.

Screening

The following section is lifted from the Government documentation *'Searching, screening and confiscation Advice for Schools' July 2022*

What the law allows:

Schools can require pupils to undergo screening by a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) even if they do not suspect them of having a weapon and without the consent of the pupils. Schools' statutory power to make rules on pupil behaviour and their duty as an employer to manage the safety of staff, pupils and visitors enables them to impose a requirement that pupils undergo screening. Any member of school staff can screen pupils. As a school we currently do not undertake these measures. If we suspected a child to having a weapon or drugs we would carry out a visual check asking the child to show us.

If a pupil refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to have the pupil on the premises. The member of staff will consider why the pupil is not co-operating, and make an assessment of whether it is necessary to carry out a search. Using the statistics in Southampton this would be carried out with the support of local police and Children's Social services.

Health and safety legislation requires a school to be managed in a way, which does not expose pupils or staff to risks to their health, and safety and this would include making reasonable rules as a condition of admittance. If a pupil fails to comply, and the school does not let the pupil in, the school has not excluded the pupil and the pupil's absence should be treated as unauthorised. The pupil should comply with the rules and attend. This type of

screening, without physical contact, is not subject to the same conditions as apply to the powers to search without consent.

Confiscation (Items found as a result of a search)

An authorised staff member carrying out a search can confiscate any item that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- poses a risk to staff or pupils;
- is prohibited, or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made or
- is evidence in relation to an offence.

PARENTS

The Head teacher will contact the parents of any children involved in an incident. Help and support will be offered to parents when appropriate, leaflets of support agencies or the school nurse will be sought. See Appendix B. The drug policy is read by a key group of parents represented on the parent forum and FOSIS.

Parental substance misuse of drugs or alcohol becomes relevant to our Safeguarding policy and procedures. When substance misuse and personal circumstances indicate that their parenting capacity is likely to be seriously impaired or that undue caring responsibilities are likely to be falling on a child in the family. If a parent turns up to collect a child under the influence all Safeguarding procedures would be adhered to.

For children the impact of parental substance misuse can include:

- Inadequate food, heat and clothing for children (family finances used to fund adult's dependency)
- Lack of engagement or interest from parents in their development, education or wellbeing
- Behavioural difficulties- inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Bullying
- Isolation – finding it hard to socialise, make friends or invite them home
- Tiredness or lack of concentration
- Child talking of or bringing into school drugs or related paraphernalia
- Injuries /accidents (due to inadequate adult supervision)
- Taking on a caring role
- Continued poor academic performance including difficulties completing homework on time
- Poor attendance or late arrival

Gang violence

Be at risk of cuckooing

These behaviours themselves do not indicate that a child's parent is misusing substances, but should be considered as indicators that this may be the case. If staff believe that a child is living with parental substance misuse, this will be reported to the designated safeguarding lead for referral to be considered for children's social care.

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

Staff should also be aware of relevant guidance contained in other policies.

- Safeguarding
- PSHE
- Health and safety

- Relationships and Behaviour
- Confidentiality
- Healthy Schools
- School visits
- Equal Opportunities
- Medicines (Appendix A)

Appendix A

Safe Working Procedures; Medicines in school

Prescribed medicines will only be given out by the office staff, and only when a parental consent form has been completed and signed. The school will not administer non prescribed medicines or allow them to be in school. A witness should be present when medicines are administered to a child as this is for the child's and school's protection.

Storage of medicines

The Health and Safety Unit's advice is that food and medicines should not be kept in the same refrigerator, because of the possibilities of contamination or error. As a class A drug it is an offence not to store Ritalin in a locked container. The Headteacher and Office staff are responsible for the administration of Ritalin.

SWP No 75 – Medicines in School – the safe working procedure:-

- Provides schools with general information and guidance about medicines in schools.
- Clarifies where responsibility for the medical care of pupils lies.

NOTE: Staff should also be aware of the relevant guidance contained in the Health and Safety Policy.

Annex B – Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/ 14

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>