

Norton Community Primary School

Drug Policy

Jan 2025 – Jan 2027



Vision Statement

Nothing is beyond our reach!

Care and challenge engage and motivate us!

Praise reassures and supports us!

Successes are celebrated and built on!

Norton Primary School Drug Policy

This policy was developed as part of the Healthy School's initiative.

Norton Community Primary School operates a No Smoking / Vaping on Site policy. It expects all visitors and parents to adhere to this. Signage is displayed to remind adults of this whilst on site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of all staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues. The policy forms an integral part of our existing PSHE programmes, and the drug education programme complements this.

1.1 RATIONALE

Norton Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

1.2 DRUGS EDUCATION IN CONTEXT

A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential and within the programme, pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

2 THE RANGE OF SUBSTANCES

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- *alcohol and tobacco*
- *'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches*
- *prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers*
- *volatile substances such as glues and aerosols*

- *illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy*
- *Vapes / e-cigarettes*

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs.

Procedures for handling prescribed medicines and volatile substances are also outlined in the school *Medical Needs and Health and Safety policies*. This policy complements these policies and also the *Child Protection Policy*. It does not exist in isolation.

If the Head Teacher has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs of any description are being used or supplied on the school premises, they will take appropriate steps to inform the relevant bodies in order to avoid any liability as a 'manager or occupier' of premises. If staff have taken possession of a substance for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing an offence; they should under no circumstance, try to analyse or identify it. If they suspect it to be LSD, they should wear gloves when handling it, to avoid ingestion through the skin. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place, and the police contacted.

3 PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS

A suspected drug related incident is described as

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- An adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident

The incident will be, in the first instance, reported to the Head Teacher who will contact the police in this area. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the designated safeguarding Lead.

All staff are made aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be followed. If a search needs to be made the Head Teacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

3.1 CONFIDENTIALITY

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should

also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure and the Head Teacher is to be informed.

4 THE PLACE OF DRUGS EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

Drug education should not be seen as a one-off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

At Key Stages 1 and 2, the children are provided with opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances, their effects of health and lifestyle.

Drugs education is specifically included within the Programmes of Study for Science, and within other subjects, such as Religious Education, PSHE, English, and Physical Education, there are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from a variety of perspectives.

5 THE DELIVERY AND ORGANISATION OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Drugs Education is a whole staff issue. Norton Primary School ensures that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to the policy, which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum. Where possible staff received in-service training on drug issues. Year 6 have a workshop on Drugs and the whole school follows the 3D PSHE Curriculum resources to deal with aspects at an appropriate level for the different ages in our school.

5.1 OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Norton Primary School may use outside agencies to help deliver the drug education programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head Teacher has given approval for the use of the outside agency.
- CRB disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education.

6 LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. They are involved in the planning of the school drug policy and they should be involved fully in the education of their child. This is especially so with the drug education programmes. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and discuss drug issues with their child whenever

possible. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents.

The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents.

Norton Primary School has developed good working relationships with the local police. This helps to ensure that if a drug-related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

7 THE ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The Head Teacher is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. Her role includes:

- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance found in school
- Liaison with the appropriate authorities on any drug related incident
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- The induction of new staff as appropriate
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents
- Reviewing and updating the school drug policy, when required

8 MONITORING AND EVALUATING

The school drug education policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drugs use. The programmes of study for drug education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

The induction of new staff will include introduction to this policy.

The policy is available to parents and the community via our School Website.

APPENDIX 1

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ALCOHOL MISUSE

The school premises are an alcohol free zone. The school does not allow any alcohol to be brought onto or consumed in school premises. This applies to visitors, staff and pupils.

Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the principal directly.

Pupils will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

At the start of the school year, parents must complete a medical form indicating any medical illness their child has. The parent is also advised that the school will not, as a matter of course administer medicine to a pupil. If an emergency arises, the parent will be contacted and permission sought if necessary.

If a pupil needs to bring a prescribed medicine into school, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- A letter from the parent explaining the nature of the illness and the dosage required must be sent with the pupil
- The pupil must immediately give the medicine to the school office
- The office staff must store the medicine in a secure space and ensure that only the pupil for whom the medicine is prescribed, takes the medicine.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENTS

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvents or aerosols into school. This includes tippex fluid and pens, tippex thinners, glue, marker pens and spray deodorants. Pupils *are* permitted to bring felt tip pens to school.

All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and usage of solvents in their classroom. Where possible they should be locked away when not in use. This includes white board markers, glues and paints. The cleaners and caretakers should also ensure that their stores are locked when not in use and that solvents are held in a secure place.