

Drug Misuse Policy 2026 2027

Nothing is beyond our reach!

Approved by	Governing Board
Policy Lead	Headteacher
Date approved	Autumn 2026
Review date	Autumn 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!

At Norton Community Primary School we are committed to providing a caring, safe, inclusive and respectful environment where every child feels valued and able to achieve their full potential.

1. Statement of Intent

Norton Community Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, health and wellbeing of all pupils. The school recognises its responsibility to educate pupils about the risks associated with drugs and substance misuse, to provide a safe environment, and to respond appropriately to any drug-related incident.

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, governors, volunteers, contractors, visitors and users of the school site.

For the purpose of this policy, the term *drugs* includes:

- Illegal drugs
- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- Vapes and e-cigarettes
- Prescription medicines
- Over-the-counter medicines
- Volatile substances (solvents, aerosols, gases)
- New psychoactive substances

Schools are strongly advised to maintain a written drugs policy and ensure pupils affected by drug misuse have access to support and intervention.

2. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy has been developed with regard to:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

- DfE: *Drugs: Advice for Schools*
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

This policy should be read alongside the school's:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- RSHE Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Educational Visits Policy

3. Aims

The school aims to:

- Protect pupils from harm associated with drugs and substance misuse.
- Develop pupils' knowledge, skills and resilience to make healthy and informed choices.
- Provide clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents.
- Support pupils affected by their own or another person's substance misuse.
- Fulfil safeguarding responsibilities and work effectively with external agencies.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

The governing board will:

- Ensure the school complies with statutory safeguarding duties.
- Monitor implementation of this policy.
- Review the policy annually.

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Overall implementation of this policy.
- Managing serious drug-related incidents.
- Liaising with police and outside agencies where necessary.
- Ensuring appropriate staff training.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- Lead safeguarding responses where substance misuse presents a welfare concern.
- Make referrals to Children's Social Care where appropriate.
- Coordinate support for vulnerable pupils.

All Staff

All staff must:

- Promote healthy lifestyles.
- Report concerns immediately.
- Follow safeguarding procedures.
- Never ignore suspected substance misuse.

5. Drug Education

Drug education forms part of the school's RSHE and Health Education curriculum.

Pupils will receive age-appropriate teaching about:

- Medicines and safe use of medicines.
- Tobacco, vaping and nicotine products.
- Alcohol.
- Illegal drugs.
- Peer pressure and decision making.
- Risk-taking behaviour.
- Keeping themselves safe.
- How and where to seek help.

Health Education requirements include teaching pupils about harmful substances including smoking, vaping, alcohol and drugs.

6. Medicines in School

The administration and storage of medicines are managed through the school's Medical Conditions Policy.

Staff must:

- Follow agreed medical procedures.
- Store medicines securely.
- Maintain administration records.
- Report concerns regarding misuse of medication immediately.

No pupil may bring medication into school unless authorised under school procedures.

7. Smoking, Vaping, Alcohol and Drugs

The school site is a non-smoking and non-vaping environment.

The possession, use, supply or distribution of:

- Illegal drugs
- Alcohol

- Tobacco products
- E-cigarettes and vaping devices
- Drug paraphernalia

is strictly prohibited on school premises or during school activities.

This prohibition applies to pupils, visitors and staff.

8. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

A drug-related incident may include:

- Possession of a prohibited substance.
- Suspected use of a prohibited substance.
- Supplying or sharing substances.
- Discovery of substances or paraphernalia.
- Disclosure by a pupil.
- Concerns about parental or family substance misuse.
- Medical emergencies connected to substance use.

Each incident will be assessed individually, taking account of:

- Age and maturity of the pupil.
- Nature of the substance.
- Level of risk.
- Safeguarding concerns.
- Previous incidents.

9. Responding to Incidents

If a substance is found:

Staff should:

1. Prioritise safety.
2. Inform a senior leader immediately.
3. Secure the substance.
4. Avoid handling more than necessary.
5. Record all actions taken.

Medical Emergency

If a pupil appears seriously ill:

- Call 999 immediately.
- Administer first aid as appropriate.
- Inform parents/carers as soon as possible.
- Inform the DSL.

Investigation

The school may:

- Interview pupils.
- Contact parents/carers.
- Seek police advice where appropriate.
- Make safeguarding referrals.

10. Searching and Confiscation

Authorised school staff have powers to search pupils and confiscate prohibited items in accordance with current legislation and DfE guidance.

Any substance believed to be illegal will be safely stored and may be handed to the police.

11. Safeguarding

Substance misuse may be an indicator of wider safeguarding concerns.

Staff must be particularly alert where:

- A pupil is exposed to parental drug or alcohol misuse.
- There are concerns regarding neglect.
- Substance misuse is linked to exploitation, county lines or criminal activity.
- There are concerns regarding mental health, attendance or welfare.

All safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

12. Working with Parents

The school will:

- Inform parents/carers of concerns where appropriate.
- Work in partnership to support pupils.
- Signpost families to specialist services.
- Balance confidentiality with safeguarding responsibilities.

There may be circumstances where safeguarding considerations mean information cannot immediately be shared.

13. Support and Early Intervention

The school's response will prioritise education, support and safeguarding rather than punishment alone.

Support may include:

- Pastoral support.
- Early Help referrals.
- Family support services.
- School nursing services.
- Mental health support.
- Substance misuse services.

DfE guidance emphasises that pupils affected by their own or another person's drug misuse should receive early support and intervention.

14. Recording and Confidentiality

All incidents will be:

- Recorded accurately.
- Stored securely.
- Managed in accordance with UK GDPR requirements.
- Shared only with those who need to know.

A written record will include:

- Date and time.
- Individuals involved.
- Actions taken.
- Outcomes.
- Any referrals made.

15. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Board will review this policy annually or sooner in response to:

- Changes in legislation.
- Updated DfE guidance.
- Local safeguarding requirements.
- Significant drug-related incidents.