



Thaxted Primary School

Drug Policy and Procedures

Policy Date: Summer 2022	Review Date: Summer 2025	Responsible Person: Headteacher In Conjunction with: PSHE Subject Leader
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1. INTRODUCTION

This policy will seek to ensure that:

- Children in our school receive an education that enables them to grow up confidently, knowledgeably, competently and safely in a 'drug-using' world.
- Children get consistent messages about living a healthy lifestyle and the inappropriateness of drug misuse.
- Drug related incidents are addressed throughout our school in a consistent manner.

2. DEFINITIONS

We define drugs as being:

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

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

Throughout this policy drug refers to all drugs:

- Illegal drugs;
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances;
- Prescribed medicines;
- Over the counter medicines.

We define drug misuse to be:

'.....the taking of any substance which harms or threatens to harm the physical or mental health or social well-being of an individual, or of other individuals, or society at large, or which is illegal. Within this definition can be placed the use of legal substances such as alcohol, solvents, the use of prescribed medicines and the taking of illegal drugs'.

(Adapted from the Royal College of Psychiatrists 1987 – County Child Protection Guidelines)

3. EDUCATION

Under the terms of The National Curriculum in England 2014, our balanced and broadly-based curriculum must:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society;
- Prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Children are growing up in an increasingly 'drug-using' world. During their early childhood they are exposed to messages about drug use from the media, their peers, their families and our wider society, they may experiment with drugs whilst still of school age and will be confronted by opportunities to use drugs throughout their lives.

If we prepare our children for living in a 'drug-using world' we need to ensure all young people in our school receive an appropriate curriculum matched to their age and readiness.

We recognise that many of the aspects of the curriculum contribute towards enabling young people not only to stay safe from substance misuse, but also to have the high esteem and interpersonal skills that enable them to stay safe and in control.

Our school is committed to working towards the principles of the health promoting school and the National Healthy School Standard both to raise achievement and to support those young people living with risk factors that increase their vulnerability to future drug misuse.

The raising of every child's self-esteem is a fundamental aim of our school.

4. WELFARE

Problems with drug use can affect any of our young people, from the youngest to the eldest. These range from:

- Accidental exposure to a substance (medicines) or drug equipment;
- Inappropriate experimental or recreational use of a drug;
- Developing a drug habit or losing control of their drug use;
- A sudden, catastrophic health problem;
- Living in drug families or in circumstances that might make them vulnerable to future drug misuse.

It is rare for problem drug use to be isolated from other pastoral difficulties. In all cases our guiding principle will be that: **the welfare of the child and their peers is paramount**

5. CONFIDENTIALITY

Whilst every effort will be made to enable constructive dialogue to take place between children requiring support and school staff, **no staff member can or should offer total confidentiality.**

Teachers must be able to honour their professional responsibilities in relation to child protection, co-operating with police investigation and referral to external services. Our named person for child protection, including drug-related incidents is the Headteacher, who will liaise closely with our Governor with responsibility for child protection and our PSHE co-ordinator.

6. THE TAUGHT CURRICULUM

Our curriculum will be delivered in the following way:

- As part of a spiral programme of personal, social, moral and health education it will build on concepts that the children already know and understand.
- Classroom discussions will take account of the children's current level of language and understanding, age and readiness.
- It will be relevant to the backgrounds and needs of our children and will focus on the drug use and surrounding issues most relevant to our children.
- It will focus on relevant situations and the subsequent emotions that influence choice and thinking skills.
- It will offer accurate rather than sensationalised information
- Whilst fully exploring the possible consequences of drug misuse, it will avoid 'shock/horror' which can serve to glamorise drug use
- It will ensure that all children regardless of background and ability can equally access the programme of work.

- The scheme of work gives learning outcomes that meet the needs of our children, it covers what the children need to know, understand, feel, be able to say and be able to do by the end of each key stage.
- Drug education will be monitored and assessed as part of the overall PSHE programme and science element in accordance with requirements of The National Curriculum in England 2014.

7. PROCEDURES

- The Headteacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent or member of staff.
- The school's policy is that no individuals should be under the influence of drugs (as detailed in this policy) while on the school premises unless a doctor's note indicates that this does not affect the individuals capacity to perform their duties, take care of children in their charge, or in the case of pupils, take part in lessons. The same will apply to school trips.
- The school will seek to ensure that it is prepared for any pastoral incidents where drugs misuse is a significant or contributory factor in relation to the immediate or long term safety or welfare of an individual child.
- Any child thought to have misused any substance by intent or accident will always be treated as a serious medical emergency and medical advice and treatment will be swiftly sought.
- All staff will support any child who approaches them with a drug related problem. They also have a professional duty to investigate and take appropriate action, if they have reason to believe that any child is at risk.

When dealing with an incident, in priority staff should consider:

Medical support

- Immediate safety/welfare support
- Pastoral support – counselling and guidance
- All incidents will be reported to the Headteacher immediately.
- As part of a routing Health and Safety inspection the school, including the school grounds, will be regularly checked for signs of drug misuse (including discarded drug taking equipment).
- Any use of illegal drugs, the actual supply or the offer to supply illegal drugs on school premises or school trips will always be reported to the police.
- As a general principle parents will always be notified of the school's concern over a drug related incident. The only exception to this is when the Headteacher feels that the welfare of the child would be placed in greater jeopardy by this action, in which case the Safeguarding Leads will be consulted.

Scenarios

Drugs or equipment are discovered on the school premises.

Staff should:

- Take possession and store securely
- Inform the Headteacher as soon as possible
- The Headteacher will seek police advice re identification of substance and safe disposal.
- Telephone number for the safe disposal is Uttlesford District Council 01799 510510

A pupil is found or thought to be in possession of a drug

Staff should:

- Take possession and store securely

- Inform the Headteacher as soon as possible
- The Headteacher will seek police advice re identification of substance and safe disposal.
- Inform parents or carers

A pupil discloses that they are using drugs

Staff should:

- Inform the Headteacher
- Inform Family Operations Hub, if the child is 'at risk'
- Inform parents or carers
- Seek advice from the Family Operations Hub and if appropriate Social Services

Pupil discloses that parents or carers misuse/supply drugs

Staff should:

- Inform the Headteacher
- Inform Family Operations Hub, if the child is 'at risk'
- Retain the child and notify Headteacher if a parent collecting a child from school (especially by car) appears intoxicated, if unable to retain the child inform the police
- Inform the Family Operations Hub

Hearsay/Rumour of drugs misuse

Staff should:

- Inform the Headteacher
- Inform Family Operations Hub, who will record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of concerns to be compiled. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports of incidents for one school year the evidence will be removed from the records.

Suspicious Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs

Staff should:

- Inform the Headteacher
- Inform the safeguarding team, who will record the matter, thus enabling a record of concerns to be compiled.

8. MONITORING AND RECORD KEEPING

All drug related incidents will be recorded in the school's Child Protection records. No entry will be made on the child's record until all the evidence has been gathered and corroborated.

9. DISCIPLINE

The majority of young people who misuse drugs are only experimenting with them. This behaviour is still potentially dangerous and young people must understand that the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of any substance in all circumstances is inappropriate. Young people need to understand that the school will try to support anyone who voluntarily seeks their help with a drug related problem. They also need to know that bringing drugs into school or on visits will be dealt with severely. As a general principle, young people who are found in possession of drugs will be temporarily excluded from the school whilst a thorough investigation can take place. During or immediately following this exclusion a case conference will be held to decide the most appropriate action.