



Drug and Substance Misuse Policy

Date written	June 2024 and reviewed September 2025
Written by	Abigail Oliver Headteacher
Date ratified by governors	September 2025
Review date	September 2026

Definition:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as:

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

This definition has been adopted by the Home Office and is the definition that applies within this policy and which therefore covers:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine and alkyl nitrates
- All legal medicinal drugs (including ‘over-the-counter’ and prescription medicines)

Legal highs

These relate to all ‘psychoactive’ drugs, including ‘legal highs’, and can be described using three main categories:

- stimulants,
- ‘downers’ or sedatives,
- psychedelics or hallucinogens.

They are substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. At Woodlea Primary School, legal highs are also considered a prohibited substance.

Aims of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme (through our PSHE scheme of work)
- Enable staff to manage drugs, alcohol and illegal substances on the school premises, and any incidents involving such that may occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs, alcohol and illegal substances compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school’s drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs

Application

This policy applies to all persons using the school site; pupils, staff and visitors. It applies during the school day (including break and lunch time), and during any additional times the school is legally responsible for the pupil. It applies on residential and non-residential visits.

Role of the headteacher and governors

The Governing Body have overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. This responsibility is devolved to Abigail Oliver, Headteacher, who is responsible for liaising with the governing body,

parents/carers and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of those staff within the school, who have responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy. The headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use, reduce the harm caused by drugs and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

Drugs related issues within the school are rare, but at times pupils are exposed to misuse of drugs beyond school.

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. Drugs education is timetabled within PSHE and is delivered by class teachers and other specialist professionals when appropriate. This is done through our JIGSAW scheme of work.

Content and Learning Objectives

When planning, consideration will be given to pupils' diversity of race and experience, those who are on regular medication, and children with Special Education Needs.

We will ensure:

- Children understand the short and long term effects and risks involved in drug misuse.
- Children know the rules and laws relating to drugs.
- Children know the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities.
- Children understand the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.
- Children are supported by community specialists to provide a programme of drug education linked to our own PSHE curriculum health education.
- Children are equipped with enough knowledge and skills to resist adverse influences of peers, youth culture, media and even parents.
- We promote a positive, healthy lifestyle.
- That we take on board any new information from county or government, in relation to drugs education.
- That staff inform the Headteacher about any concerns related to drug misuse.
- That we seek immediate advice and secure help for any child who is showing signs of having misused drugs.

KS1: pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

KS2: pupils learn about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs and basic skills for managing risky situations. They learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong, and to take more responsibility for their actions. *(Special consideration will be given to children of drug misusing parents/carers where issues portrayed could stigmatise the child or heighten anxieties about their parent's/carer's welfare.)*

The approach to drugs and any information about drugs is delivered sensitively in a holistic manner through the PSHE curriculum and other related school policies.

Medicines and Legal Medicinal Drugs

- Pupils are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into school unless they are for medication. For further information please see our 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administration of Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicines Policy'.
- In this case a medical consent form must be completed, accessed from the school office or by emailing adminoffice@woodlea.hants.sch.uk and must be prescribed medicines that are in date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage.
- Where appropriate, pupils will be expected to self-administer their medicine and are asked to take any medication within sight of a qualified first aider.
- We will only administer non-prescribed medicines that are in the original packaging with written consent on the Medication Consent Form (e.g. anti-histamine, paracetamol, ibuprofen, eye drops, Gaviscon, cough medicine). This will also only be on a short-term basis (where the school have concerns they will seek further guidance from their link School Nurse).
- We will never administer aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the following:

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding policy

The school drugs education policy is made available to parents/carers via the school office on request adminoffice@woodlea.hants.sch.uk