

## DRUGS EDUCATION AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

We recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. Children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. Our vision, included below, underpins our approach to drugs education and the prevention of drug misuse.

*We come to school to learn, explore and grow. In our small community, we all work together to make a better school, make connections and to prepare for our future. Values of love, kindness, hope and peace help to guide us on this journey.*

## OUR AIMS

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Safeguard the health and safety of pupils
- Document our stance towards drugs
- Outline our approach to drugs education
- Clarify responsibilities, enabling staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved

## DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

Drugs are chemical substances that affect the normal functioning of the body or brain.

### Over the counter and prescription medicines

It is important that pupils know that some drugs can be beneficial when used following medical advice. Pupils should understand that these substances must be used following instructions and that they may be harmful if not used correctly.

### Legal drugs

Some drugs are legal, like caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol.

While some drugs are helpful (e.g. medicines) and some perceived as socially acceptable, all of them have potential to be harmful.

### Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs are considered so harmful that laws regulate their use, making it unlawful to possess, use, or sell them. Examples include cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, LSD (D-Lysergic Acid Diethylamide) and methamphetamine.

## OUR APPROACH

We are committed to the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors. We will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices and to discourage the misuse of drugs. We will do this through a programme of drug education and by dealing sensitively and effectively with any drug-related incidents that may arise.

Effective Drug and Alcohol Education can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils as they grow up. It enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being in line with the PSHE curriculum as a whole.

We believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with fairly, consistently and clearly with regards to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Governors

The board is responsible for ensuring that an up to date policy for drug education and managing drug incidents is maintained and disseminated to all staff and is accessible to all interested parties, including parents and carers.

### Headteacher

The headteacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy, its implementation, and for liaison with the Governors, parents, the local authority and appropriate outside agencies. They will be responsible for ensuring that an up to date policy for drug education and managing drug incidents is maintained and disseminated to all staff and is accessible to all interested parties, including parents/carers.

### PSHE and science leaders

The PSHE and science subject leaders, together with the headteacher, have a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. This team will provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to drug education. They are responsible for identifying and providing good quality resources and in-service training, as required.

### All staff

Teaching children about drugs is a whole-school process. Teachers promote positive, healthy choices on a daily basis and are sensitive to individual pupil needs. It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- teach drug education in line with the principles and statements set out in this policy, and in accordance with the PSHE and science curriculum content.
- approach the teaching of drug education with an awareness of children's needs
- recognise when there is a concern and, if necessary, to follow child protection procedures
- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school
- prepare pupils for the choices, pressures and responsibilities of adult life
- establish with pupils a set of ground rules which set the parameters for discussion
- carefully manage classroom discussion to avoid content that is beyond the scope of the planned lesson and the intended learning objectives, and deflect questions of a personal nature
- be vigilant and to take necessary steps if a drug related incident is suspected

### Parents / carers

Evidence shows parents are the single biggest influence on young people. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with parents, through shared understanding, trust and cooperation. To achieve this aim we will:

- share our drugs policy with parents
- provide curriculum information on the school website
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school
- welcome feedback on both the policy, and teaching and learning, making changes and improvements if required

## DRUGS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Teaching and learning about a healthy lifestyle and staying safe is part of PSHE and science lessons. Pupils are taught age appropriate learning objectives in accordance with the curriculum content detailed on the curriculum page of the school website: [reethandgunnerside.org.uk/children/curriculum](http://reethandgunnerside.org.uk/children/curriculum)

Effective teaching of drug education not only increases children's knowledge about drugs but also enables children to:

- improve their self esteem
- make informed choices and decisions
- develop personal initiative and responsibility
- recognise personal skills and their qualities in others
- maintain and develop relationships
- develop self-confidence
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- develop the motivation to succeed.

Any parents that would appreciate further information about curriculum content are encouraged to contact school.

Delivery of the drug education curriculum will principally be taught by the classteachers. However, where appropriate, external contributors may enhance what is being taught. Such visitors are used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated. To ensure consistency in this regard, we ask all visitors to explain in detail the content of their visit.

## **MONITORING**

To ensure consistency and progression throughout school, drugs education will be monitored by the PSHE and science subject leaders. Discussion with teaching staff, learning walks, lessons observations and book scrutiny are used to evaluate and develop provision.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Teachers assess pupils' knowledge and understanding as they learn over the course of a project or lesson series. Class discussion, observation and independent work are used to assess the progress made towards the learning outcomes, and this information is recorded at the end of each project in our school assessment tracker.

## **MEDICINES AT SCHOOL**

Pupils should not bring prescribed medication into school without informing school staff. Any prescribed medicine should be handed to a staff member. It will be stored in the school office or staff refrigerator. A lockable storage box is available at each school for medicines that require secure storage.

Parents must provide up to date medical information and details of any associated medication. Parents must complete the medicine administration form prior to any dose being given. It is available on the school website:

[reethandgunnerside.org.uk/parents/medicine](http://reethandgunnerside.org.uk/parents/medicine)

Two staff members are present for the administration of all medicine. Records are kept of all medication received and given.

## **MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school. However, we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

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 headteacher / designated safeguarding lead who will contact other agencies as required. 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 this will be completed in accordance with the information in the school behaviour policy.

The school drugs policy applies to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents and carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carers comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk, then we will follow child protection procedures.

### **SMOKE FREE AND ALCOHOL FREE PREMISES, EDUCATIONAL VISITS**

Smoking (including use of e-cigarettes) and alcohol consumption is not permitted anywhere on school premises. School staff leading educational visits, including residential stays, will apply these rules and the guidance in this policy while away from school.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

This policy has been written in accordance with the DfE document *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools - advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, September 2012*.

This policy links with other school information, including our PSHE curriculum, good behaviour policy, health and safety policy, medicine policy and child protection policy.

### **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

This policy is monitored by the headteacher who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

This policy was approved by governors in spring term 2025. This policy will be reviewed biennially.