



BUSBRIDGE CE (Aided) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Drugs Policy



This policy was updated by the Governing Body in the Spring Term 2023

It will be reviewed in the Spring term 2025

Introduction

We aim to equip all our pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse. The policy applies to: all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working with the school.

What are drugs?

The term refers to:

- substances used for medication e.g. paracetamol, antibiotics
- substances intended for medical use but misused
- substances which are legal but whose possession is not acceptable in school e.g. cigarettes, alcohol, vaping.
- substances which are legal but may be misused e.g. glue
- substances for which possession is illegal e.g. amphetamines, cocaine.

Our rationale for drug education:

Drug use and misuse have become increasingly common in our society and as such the school recognises the need to:

- Prepare and equip pupils with important life skills needed for life in a drug using society;
- Provide pupils with the correct knowledge, allowing them to make important decisions and be safe;
- Deal with the broad range of drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the lives of our pupils and other involved in the life of the school.

Context

Drugs education is part of our PSHE scheme of work and it is taught in a progressive way appropriate to the age and needs of the children. Children are taught about drugs through a variety of teaching styles and approaches which encourage them to take responsibility for themselves, their actions and their learning, e.g. discussion, role-play, brainstorming. They are given opportunities to succeed, to reflect and evaluate their understanding and response to drugs. Children are encouraged to be positive about themselves and their achievements are valued. The school acknowledges that a positive health promoting ethos helps pupils feel valued and part of the school community and, in doing so, helps build self-esteem and self-images that may enable pupils to cope more effectively in drug related situations.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The PSHE co-ordinator will monitor delivery of the programme through observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision.

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness will be conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Discussions to review and share experience
- Assessment of pupil learning objectives/outcomes
- Work monitoring

Responding to drug related incidents:

At Busbridge Junior School we acknowledge pastoral responsibility and seek to work closely with families and support agencies. We consider each drug incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses are necessary to deal with incidents appropriately. We consider very carefully the implications of any action we may take and seek to balance the interests of the pupils involved, their parents, other school members and the local community.

The range of responses includes:

- The use of in-school counselling services or support from Home School Link Worker or the school's Emotional Literacy Support Assistant
- Referral to outside agencies for Safeguarding and Child Protection, support or counselling treatment as appropriate.
- Team Around the Family meetings to discuss the options carefully before devising action plans to enable pupils to remain in school and receive appropriate help.
- Behaviour contracts (setting out clearly the terms on which a pupil can remain at the school – emphasising positive rather than negative behaviour).

Emergency situations

If a pupil is deemed to be in danger as a result of drug misuse (e.g. collapsed, unconscious) the following course of action should be taken:

- Notify school office by the fastest possible means to call an ambulance and outline the cause of the emergency.
- Summon help immediately from another member of staff and send for a first aider.
- Provide emergency aid to pupil as appropriate.
- Notify the Headteacher or another senior Leader.
- Notify the pupil's parents.
- Remove, in the presence of an adult witness, any suspicious substances/equipment and retain in case they are required by ambulance staff.
- Record the incident in the school's medical book and complete an incident form.
A written report will be given to the Headteacher.

Disclosure

A pupil may disclose to a member of staff that (s)he has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use of out of school hours. Concern for the pupil's welfare will be paramount but teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality and should make this known to any pupil seeking such an assurance. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information.

Suspicion/hearsay

Any hearsay/rumour about pupil drug use will be carefully evaluated in the light of the school's own knowledge about the pupil and sensitively investigated before any possible action is taken.

Substance Misusing Parents

The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose drug use (legal and/or illegal) is problematic. The child's welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within the legal limits that it can, to support the child in a variety of ways, both practically and emotionally.

If a member of staff suspects that a parent collecting their child from school and intending to drive is intoxicated the police advice is that efforts should be calmly made to help the parent think of alternative, safer ways of getting home. This might include walking home, getting somebody else to collect them or calling a taxi. If the parent becomes aggressive and insists on driving on no account should staff put their own safety or security at risk. If possible staff should note down details of the car and phone the police with this information as soon as possible.