



Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

Revised May 2025

Beech Hill Primary School
Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

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1. Context.

Our vision for Beech Hill is that all children will feel loved, happy and safe. We will provide each child with many and varied opportunities to develop their character to feel accepted; to develop a sense of belonging; to be driven and resilient and to be inspired and be inspiring. We do this through ensuring a safe environment in our school, promoting respect for ourselves and all others and engendering a sense of community and responsibility in all. Drug education is more than just information, it is important that children have the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to make positive choices in a drug using world.

We understand that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. The DfE advises all schools to have an up-to-date Drugs Policy. Primary aged 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. We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to: - give a clear view on the use of drugs in school; - provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school; - give information about what is taught and how it is taught; - give guidance to teachers, support staff, parents and visitors about drug education.

2. Definitions and Boundaries.

This policy encompasses all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), all illegal drugs, volatile substances and unauthorised over the counter medicines.

The policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but on all school visits, trips and residentials, including those made outside of normal school hours. It will also be upheld on all school buses and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

It has been written in line with the recommendations made in the Drugs: Guidance for School (DFES 391/2004).

3. Aims.

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

-provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs

- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs
- explore attitudes towards drug use and misuse
- develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions
- identify sources of personal support
- raise young peoples self esteem
- enable children to recognise a broad range of strategies to maintain emotional and physical health.
- equip young people with the skills and confidence to deal with pressures from peers and society.
- link drugs education in school with the Science and PSHE curriculum.

4. PSHE Curriculum Content

Drug Education is taught at an appropriate level throughout each key stage beginning with the foundation curriculum through year 6, and is based on a scheme of work provided by Kapow. The objectives are:

Year 1 -To begin to understand what is safe to put into or onto our bodies.

Year 2- To begin to understand how to stay safe with medicines.

Year 3 -To begin to recognise who and what can influence our decisions.

Year 4 -To begin to understand the risks of smoking and the benefits of being a non-smoker.

Year 5 -To begin to understand the influence others have on us and how we can make our own decisions.

Year 6 -To begin to understand the risks of alcohol.

We also feel that our ethos at school supports our broad aim to support children's emotional and physical health in positive ways.

5. School Environment

The school is committed to promoting a healthy and supportive environment for the benefit of pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and visitors. A non-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. The policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises.

All incidents of smoking will be challenged.

Similarly, the misuse of drugs (including legal substances such as alcohol) by pupils, staff or visitors is prohibited within the stated school boundaries.

6. Storage and administration of medicines

Refer to Administering Medicines Policy

Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in either the medicine refrigerator or medicine cabinets.

7. Drug-related incidents

The school will consider each incident individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community. Any sanctions enforced will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions; and will reflect the seriousness of the incident. After immediate medical needs have been addressed the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved.

We recognise that any pupil misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency.

All staff are familiar with the recommended procedures identified in the flow chart, "Situations involving drugs without medical authority". (Appendix 2)

8. Police

In the event of an incident occurring within the school ground the Police Protocols found in Appendix B at the end of this policy will be followed.

Our linked Police can be contacted at Etal Road Police Station, Newcastle upon Tyne
Tel 01912146555

9. Parents and Pupils

Parents and pupils have been made aware of the school's policy. If young people are under the influence of drugs in school we will firstly ensure their safety and undertake any emergency measures before any action is taken. We will follow the Police Protocol in any event supplied as an appendix at the end of this policy.

If parents are under the influence of drugs in school then Police Protocol will again be followed.

If it is suspected that members of the community are supplying drugs on school property the Police Protocol will again be followed.

10. Support

We will provide pupil and parents with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drug issues.

Support for families and pupils involved in drugs, can be found via the Civic Centre, the School Health Team or Social Services.

11. Confidentiality

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum.

12. Responding to the Media

As drug-related incidents are likely to generate media interest, all members of staff have been advised not to respond to journalists' questions, but to refer journalists to the CEO of Valour academies. The CEO will make a considered response after seeking assistance from the local Authority Press Office.

13. Roles and responsibilities.

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies. Other responsibilities include:

Overall charge of the process which forms and reviews the drugs policy.

Responsibility for implementing monitoring systems.

Responsibility for ensuring evaluation takes place and that informs policy review.

Ensuring coordination and coherence of drugs education and the management of drug related incidents.

Initiating and coordinating responses to any unplanned situation involving drugs.

Coordinating links with external agencies.

14. Staff support and training.

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained. It is important that staff feel adequately trained to deliver drugs education and to implement this policy. We will ensure that staff are regularly consulted as to their training needs and training is provided as appropriate to keep abreast of developments in relation to drugs and drug issues.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation.

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated annually. Any suggested amendments will be taken into consideration and adopted where appropriate.

Samantha Witty-Ingham PSHE Lead

Dame Nicola Stephenson CEO Valour academies.

Appendix A

The Misuse of Drugs Act - 1971

CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C
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Heroin, Methadone

Opium

L.S.D.

Ecstasy

Any form of Magic

Mushrooms

*Any Class B drug which is
injected*

Cannabis Oil / skunk

Crack/Cocaine

Amphetamines (Speed)

Barbiturates

Codeine

*Cannabis (if possessed
/supplied by a minor)*

Mild Amphetamines

Tranquillisers (see below)

DF 118

Cannabis Resin / Grass

Maximum Penalties

Possession - 7 years + fine

Trafficking - Life + fine

Maximum Penalties

Possession - 5 years + fine

Trafficking - 14 years + fine

Maximum Penalties

Possession - 2 years + fine

Trafficking - 5 years + fine

These penalties are in Crown Courts. In Magistrates Courts, the maximum sentence is 6 months imprisonment and a £2000 fine. The actual sentence someone gets will depend also upon the amount of the drug involved, their previous criminal record, their circumstances (e.g. a single parent) and the attitude of the magistrate/judge.

Further information - Alcohol, solvents, cigarettes and poppers are not covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Magic Mushrooms - It is not illegal to eat them but it is illegal to make them into a preparation such as tea or dry them out.

Tranquilizers - It is not illegal to use them without prescription but it is illegal to give/sell them to other people for non-medical use. In this case, they are considered as Class C drugs.

Appendix B

DRUGS POLICY

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

These guidelines relate primarily to police response to substance misuse incidents in school and in particular drugs. The document has been designed to support school drugs policies in line with DFES Guidelines 2003.

Over-riding Principles

Police response to substance misuse incidents should:
be consistent across the Force and
be based on clear and accessible guidelines available to police officers and educationalists.

Management of schools is the responsibility of the Head, Governors and the Local Authority.

Police response should compliment management responsibility to pupils but should not conflict with the police responsibility to investigate offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Decisions concerning young people who are involved in substance misuse incidents at schools are better made in partnership between police and schools rather than in isolation.

School managers (Head teachers, Governors, LA) will be expected to have an up to date Substance Misuse/Drug Incident Policy.

Guidelines to Police Involvement in Drug Related Incidents in Schools.

Drugs Definitions

Drug Strategies in Schools and Supportive Legislation

Police Response to a Drug Related Incident in School

Types of Incidents and Suggested Procedures

Aide Memoir for Police Officers

Drugs Identification Guide