

Policy for:

Drugs Education

Date Written: May 2005

Date Reviewed: October 2026

Next Review Date: October 2029

Signed By: Mrs Penny Derries

Governor Responsible for: Mrs Glynis Gower

Headteacher: Mrs P Derries

THE GROVE SCHOOL
DRUG EDUCATION
POLICY STATEMENT

AIMS

The school is committed to the Health and Safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupil's and will seek to provide quality drug education, as and when appropriate to the individual level and needs of pupils.

RATIONALE

- The school is committed to safeguarding pupils and will work together with parents and other professionals to equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attributes, skills and strategies to make informed choices to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- The school recognises the need to provide a balanced drug education programme, containing information to support the development of life-skills.
- The school will provide systems for dealing with drug related incidents within the school environment.

DEFINITION – WHAT IS A DRUG?

A drug is a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works.
This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all legal/illegal drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, solvents), volatile substances (see also the school's Health and Safety Policy and COSHH) and all over the counter and prescription medicines.
This policy covers a range of drugs including medicine, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.

TO WHOM DOES THE POLICY APPLY?

This policy applies to school pupils, all staff, parents and other visitors on site.

WHERE DOES THE POLICY APPLY?

This policy applies at all times when staff are acting in loco parentis, this includes educational visits in the line of County Guidelines on visits off site. The

policy applies to pupils travelling to and from school and during break and lunchtimes. It also affects the use of school premises after normal school hours. Organisers of any after school events should be made aware of the policy and their responsibility to implement it.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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 Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies in the event of a drug related incident.

GOVERNORS – As part of their general responsibilities for the management of the school the governors play a key role in the implementation of the school's policy for drug education and prevention (as referenced to in DFEE Circular 4/95). They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of the policy. The named lead governor with responsibility for this policy is Mrs Glynis Gower.

ALL STAFF – Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them should they have to deal with a drug related incident. This includes office staff, kitchen staff and the school caretaker. If they have any queries or training requirements they should discuss this with the PSHE co-ordinator or Headteacher.

CARETAKER – The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any drugs or drugs paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the Headteacher and dealt with in accordance with this policy.

PARENTS – Parents are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme and have access to this policy. They are responsible for ensuring that the guidelines relating to medication in schools are followed. The school plays its part in ensuring that parents have up to date information regarding drugs. Parents have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in potential harm to their child. The Headteacher will consider if there are any special circumstances, which may temper this right.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure teaching is inclusive and accessible for all.
- To recognise the importance of religious or cultural beliefs and expectations of individuals.

- To be sensitive to families affected by substance misuse and ensure lessons are a safe place for everyone to share and discuss their experiences if they wish to.
- To signpost support and further guidance as and when appropriate.
- To allow space for discussion and avoid approaches or language that imply all young people will use or have used alcohol or drugs.
- To promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles.
- To teach healthy coping mechanisms to support positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- To raise pupil's awareness and equip them with the skills, strategies and attributes to manage their lives in a substance-using society.
- To teach pupils about the facts and risks associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- To teach pupils about the facts, laws, risks and consequences associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use and the dangers of drugs that are prescribed, but still present serious health risks.
- To equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make informed social and moral choices and help pupils to become more confident and responsible young people within society.
- To ensure pupils are aware of what they should do if they come across drugs or are aware of other people using them.
- To ensure teaching about drugs and alcohol is integrated across curriculum subjects within our termly themes, within Preparation for Adulthood, within our PSHE and SHRE programmes of work and within our ASDAN accreditations and awards.

The programme reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. The programme is responsive to the needs of the pupils relevant to their individual needs, level, age, experience and maturity. The programme will involve a wide range of strategies.

On the whole, our class teachers teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of our school policy. Individual pupil's questions will be addressed at the time. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance. The school actively co-operates with the LEA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

MANAGING A DRUG RELATED INCIDENT

The member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the school's response to drug incidents is Mrs P J Derries, Headteacher.

Drug related incidents are identified as:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises.
- Pupil/staff member/parent/visitor is found in possession of drugs.
- Pupil/staff member/parent/visitor is found to be supplying drugs on school premises.
- Pupil/staff member/parent/visitor is thought to be under the influence of drugs.

In the event of discovering a hypodermic needle the incident should be reported to the Headteacher and the DSL and the event recorded. The following procedure should be followed in order to protect everyone:

1. Do not attempt to pick up the needle
2. Cover the needle with a bucket or other container
3. If possible, cordon off the area to make it safe
4. Inform the Headteacher or the deputy Headteacher
5. Contact environmental health and the police

In the event of confiscating an illegal drug and its disposal, the incident should be reported to the Headteacher and the DSL and the event recorded. The following procedure should be followed in order to protect everyone:

1. Do not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug.
2. Take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug in order to protect pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession.
3. Encourage any pupil suspected of concealing illegal drugs to voluntarily surrender the drugs.
4. Under no circumstances will any staff member undertake an intimate physical search.
5. If pupil refuses to surrender any drugs the Headteacher will contact parents and/or police.
6. In the presence of a witness the drugs and any paraphernalia will be packed securely, labelled, dated and signed. They will be stored securely until handed over to parents/police.

In the event of a pupil suspected to be under the influence of an illegal drug, the incident should be reported to the Headteacher and the DSL and the event

recorded. The following procedure should be followed in order to protect everyone:

1. Stay calm and place the pupil in a quiet area.
2. Do not leave the pupil unsupervised.
3. Seek medical advice from school nurse or Headteacher.
4. If the pupil is unconscious place them in the recovery position, loosen tight clothing and ring 999.
5. Establish which drug the pupil has taken.
6. Any recovered drugs should travel with any pupil removed for further treatment.
7. Any vomit should also be safely collected, where possible, and also taken with the pupil for further treatment.

SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR DRUGS NAMED IN THIS POLICY ARE:

MEDICINES – see school guidelines and policy on the administration of medicines.

TOBACCO – the school is a no smoking school in line with the county guidelines. This includes vaping.

ALCOHOL – the possession or consumption of alcohol by pupils is banned.

SOLVENTS – the school will ensure that potentially harmful substances, including aerosols, are stored safely and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them being used in the course of the school day.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES – no illegal or illicit substances should be brought to school or used on school premises.

SIGNPOSTING SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS AND FAMILIES

For further guidance for pupils and their families on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, visit:

www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/drugs-alcohol-smoking/drugs
www.nhs.uk/live-well/alcohol-support
www.nhs.uk/smokefree
www.nacoa.org.uk
www.talktofrank.com

Appropriateness of a website for individual pupils will be checked prior to signposting.

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

A copy of this policy is provided for each member of staff and each member of the governing body. Reference copies are available from the head teacher for parents/carers and all other persons who come into contact with pupils.

Date of implementation May 2005

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Headteacher and Governors. This will include evaluation of teaching and learning activities, resources, staff training requirements and the use of outside visitors.

Signatures

- Headteacher
- Governor

A copy of this and all other policies are available from Mrs P J Derries, Head teacher by contacting Mrs L Stevenson, Office Manager.

Policy reviewed: October 2026

Penelope J Derries
Head teacher

Robert Curry
Chair of Governors

Next date for review: October 2029