

Drugs Education and Misuse Policy



This policy reviewed by: Ali Tuckett Date: March 2026

Next review date: March 2028

Mission Statement

'Faith, Family, Future'

Jesus built his church upon the strength of St Peter – who was his rock. At St Peter's, we provide a solid foundation on which our community thrives through our rich, aspirational curriculum. As a family, we nurture and unlock individual potential through mutual love and respect; enabling all to flourish now and in the future.

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others'

1 Peter 4 v10

Named member of staff responsible for Drug Education: Ali Tuckett

Named Governor linked to drugs policy: Charlotte Clay

This policy applies to all pupils, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members attending the school or whilst on school business including offsite visits and trips.

School description and context

St Peter's CEP School is a small primary school. The majority of the pupils on roll are of white British origin but a significant number come from other backgrounds (21%). The percentage of pupils receiving free school meals is well above the national average.

Principles

St Peter's CEP School is committed to the Health and Safety of all its members and believe that we have a duty to support and safeguard the well-being of all its pupils and staff. The school is committed to the principles of the National Healthy Schools Standard.

The school values the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils, and through the general ethos of the school, we seek to encourage and develop young people's learning and ensure support appropriate to their needs is provided.

Education about drugs is not concerned merely with substance, but with people in their social settings and therefore should involve the development of attitudes, values and the development of skills, as much as the acquisition of appropriate knowledge. Drug issues and concerns extend across socio-economic and ethnic boundaries, and pupils of all ages and abilities will encounter both the positive and negative effects of drugs, as used legally in medicine to aid recovery, or illegal use. Many pupils have some knowledge about illegal drugs through the media, "street talk", and personal experience. The school welcomes and encourages parent/carer and community involvement in the development of school policy and curriculum delivery.

Definition of a drug:

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply:

"a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication, legal/illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), volatile substances (see also the school's Health and Safety Policy) and all over the counter and prescription medicines.

Drug Policy Aims:

- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop.
- To ensure all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, the expectations about their behaviour, and the policy regarding drug incidents and concerns about individuals.
- To promote clarity about the management of drug related incidents in the school.
- To encourage and enable pupils to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.
- To enable pupils to make reasoned, informed choices.
- To minimise pupils' experimentation with illegal or harm causing substances.
- To address and take account of local community needs, including the differences and diversity within the school community.
- To support and engage parents/carers and pupils in their own personal learning and responsibilities.
- To enable young people and staff to access support structures (including the voluntary sector), e.g. counselling, and treatment.
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for pupils.
- To work with KCC and outside agencies, including the voluntary sector, to secure and support a balanced delivery of a drugs education programme e.g. Community Drug Education Advisors, IASK (Information, Advice and Support Kent), other schools, Healthy Schools Schemes, Health Promotion, Primary Health Care professionals, Community Police, Youth and Community and Kent, Safe Schools, The Schools Drugs Education Advisory (SDEA).

SECTION ONE – DRUG EDUCATION

Objectives for Drug Education:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self esteem.
- To engage parents/carers in the school community and learning process.
- To enable pupils and staff to access support if they have concerns about their own or others' drug use.

Management and co-ordination:

In accordance with government guidance St Peter's Primary School has a designated PSHE co-ordinator who is responsible for the management of drug education within the school. The co-ordinator has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to governors, senior managers, curriculum leaders, classroom teachers and support staff.

The co-ordinator will therefore ensure that:

- The Drug Education Policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is discussed and understood.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified. The underpinning aims and values and attitudes towards drug education are made explicit.
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school.
- The equality of opportunity is promoted.
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development within the field of drugs awareness and education.

Principles of Teaching and Learning

At St Peter's CEP School, the children are taught and encouraged to become more independent and confident citizens with an increasing ability to make informed choices about their own health and environment. Drug education is taught across the year groups. This is covered under both the science and PSHE curriculum. When teaching drug education, teachers should use a range of teaching strategies, including role-play, distancing techniques, discussion and group work, draw and write, debates and circle time. Circle time is an excellent vehicle for delivering, discussing and reflecting on life skills.

The National Curriculum expectations

Pupils are taught within the guidance of the National Curriculum (science programme of study and the guidance for PSHE and Citizenship). This includes:

Reception – Who we can trust and safety around everyday substances.

Key Stage 1

Topic
Medicines and Me
What happens when things go into our bodies?
Getting help from adults we can trust
The role of medicines
What happens to our bodies when we take medicines?

Key Stage 2

Dealing with unhelpful pressure
Drugs in everyday life
Alternatives to taking medicine
About tobacco
Making decisions
What we already know about alcohol and drugs
People and legal drugs
People, drugs and stereotypes
Dealing with persuaders
Alcohol
Be a solvent expert
Illegal drugs

Pupils are taught:

- All areas of drug use including alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines and volatile substances
- What the Laws say, purposes and justifications linked to anti-social behaviours
- Personal safety, keeping safe and family/community impact
- Managing peer influence, feelings, emotions and handling difficult situations
- Problem solving, decision-making, communication and coping skills
- Links with other themes within PSHE – Sex and Relationships Education, bullying,
- The impact of anti-social behaviours, work related learning and economic well-being
- How to and where to find help/support from

Resources:

- Teaching resources are up to date, differentiated and culturally and age appropriate.
- The school allocates adequate funding to Drug Education provision.
- Adequate staff resources, development and training are provided to address identified needs.
- There is a protocol for use of visitors contributing to the school programme (See Appendix A).
- Further current on-line resources can be accessed using the links in Appendix A

Cross-curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE), and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the schools' ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Differentiation and Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Whilst some pupils may have a fairly broad knowledge and insight into the world of drugs, there are those who have little or no knowledge at all. Teachers need to be sensitive to this issue and that lessons are planned to take account of pupils' age, culture, experience and maturity. The needs of pupils with SEN will be taken into account by the teacher who may need to provide different resources, different activities or specific support to some pupils.

Staff Development

St Peter's C of E Primary has an ongoing programme for professional development. Additional support and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for those involved in Drugs Education will be made available through training strategies provided by, Community Drugs Education Advisors, 'Healthy Schools' and other agencies.

Links to related school policies:

- Behaviour
- Inclusion
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Health and Safety
- Medicines and pupils with medical needs.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing:

- Senior managers are involved in monitoring and evaluation.
- Pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors are consulted and the programme and policy are modified where appropriate.

- There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.
- Drug education is reviewed in line with current LEA and Government guidelines.

SECTION 2 - DEALING WITH DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary school are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. St Peter's Primary School has identified a drug related incident as:

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

In all cases the headteacher and safeguarding leads should be informed immediately.

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

This section provides a framework for dealing with incidents surrounding the use, suspicion of use, and finding of drugs and substances.

Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any drug-related incident that affects their child. An exception to this is when the child is deemed 'at risk' and the Child Protection Service has been contacted. In this case, it is up to the CPS to decide the course of action. Staff should be aware that if they a) fail to act in a drug-related incident or b) allow drug use to continue on school premises, they could contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It should be noted that if the preservation of a confidence a) enables criminal offences to be committed, or b) results in serious harm to the pupil's health and welfare, criminal proceedings could ensue.

Unauthorized Substances

No substances are to be brought into the school premises unless authorised by the Head Teacher or through the agreed protocol for the use of medicines on the school premises. This includes alcohol, tobacco (including vapes), volatile substances and medicines. This applies to anybody using the building regardless of age or whether they are staff or pupils of the school.

Pupils found in violation of this section of the school policy, on school premises, will be dealt with in the following way:

- Parents will be contacted by the relevant teacher. Parents' support will be sought in stressing to the pupil how the use of unauthorised substances in school is a serious breach of school rules.
- A suitable sanction will be considered. The severity of the sanction will depend upon

various factors such as the age of the pupil, the circumstances of the incident, whether it is a pupil's first offence and whether it affected other pupils.

- The substance and associated paraphernalia such as matches or lighters found in a pupil's possession in school will be confiscated. They will be placed in a labelled envelope and kept securely until parents are able to collect them.

What to do in the event of finding a drug/unauthorized substance or suspected illegal substance

1. Take possession of the drug/substance and inform the Head Teacher, or if not available a senior member of staff.
 2. In the presence of a witness the article should be packed securely and labelled with the date, time and place of discovery.
 3. The package should be signed by the person who discovered it and stored in a secure place.
 4. Police should be contacted immediately and arrangements should be made to hand the package over to them. Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste any found substance.
- In the event of discovering a hypodermic needle the incident should be recorded and the following procedure should be followed in order to protect all persons:

EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN

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 Head Teacher or senior member of staff or PSHE Coordinator.
5. Contact Environmental Health.

What to do in the event of finding or suspecting a pupil is in possession of a drug

1. Request that the pupil hand over the article(s). Staff can ask pupils to turn out pockets or bags, but cannot demand that this happens.
2. Having taken possession of the substance/paraphernalia, the procedure should be followed as above.
3. Pupils should be placed in isolation until the matter has been investigated.
4. Parents should be contacted as quickly as possible.

If a pupil refuses to hand over articles a search may be required – it should be noted that:

- Teachers can search school property, i.e. cupboards and trays without permission;
- Teachers should not search pupils or personal possessions.

Procedures for dealing with a child suspected to be under the influence of a drug or substance.

Stay calm, place child in a quiet area. Do not leave them unsupervised; seek medical advice from a First Aider. If the child is drowsy or unconscious place them in the recovery position, loosen tight clothing and attempt to establish what the child has taken. Any suspected substances should travel with child if removed for treatment. Vomit should be safely collected where possible and also taken with the child (for analysis).

Procedures for dealing with Parents/carers under the influence of drugs on the school premises. Staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. If staff have concern regarding discharging a pupil in to the care of a parent/carer attempts should be made to discuss alternative arrangements with the parent/carer, for example requesting another family member to escort the child home. The focus of the staff must be the maintenance of the pupil's safety and welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of the parent/carer immediately places the child at risk of significant harm or repeated behaviour places the child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police.

The Head Teacher must complete a Drug Related Incident Form recording the nature of the incident and the subsequent action taken by the school.

When to contact the police

There is no legal obligation for the school to contact the police when a drug incident or offence has been discovered. Contacting the police is at the Head teacher's discretion. However, the school has established close liaisons with our local police and any information about illegal sales of drugs including alcohol and tobacco will be reported to them. In the event of a drug-related incident in the school, the school would cooperate with the police should they wish to search premises.

In the event of a serious incident the police may request to interview pupil(s).

Parent(s)/carer(s) must be notified. They may refuse to give consent or prefer the interview to take place in their own home, in which case the police will make arrangements.

Parents/carers may give authority to a responsible adult, e.g. a teacher to be present during the interview.

Dealing with the Media

If there has been a drug-related incident, the LA will be informed. Advice will be given by the LA on dealing with enquiries from the media in order to protect the interests of the child and the school.

Discipline

In normal circumstances parents will be contacted. If the Head Teacher assesses that the situation is a child protection issue, then CPS will be contacted in the first instance.

This school does not condone drug misuse. However, in deciding an appropriate sanction must consider the interests of the child balanced against the best interests of the whole school community. Whilst exclusion is a possible sanction (fixed or permanent) it would only be considered as a last resort. A range of responses may also be considered that may include:

- a pastoral support programme;
- referral to an appropriate agency;
- home-school contract;
- behaviour support plans;
- a managed move;
- fixed term exclusion;
- permanent exclusion.

Consideration should be given to:

- the age of the pupil;
- whether one pupil or a group of pupils is involved;
- whether there is evidence of particular peer pressure;
- whether it is the pupil's first offence.

Ratified by Governors date:

- Department for Education: For drug and alcohol education, we launched a new evidence-based information service in April 2013 called Mentor-ADEPIS for those working with young people, including schools and teachers. The new service provides practical advice and tools based on the best international evidence.
- School nursing service: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/>
- For current curriculum guidance: <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk> for lesson ideas and

- Department for Education Policy and Statutory guidance:
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DfES%200092%202004>

- Parents and young people information and support helpline:
www.talktofrank.com (0800 77 66 00)
- Drugscope – www.drugscope.org.uk (useful national data)