



Drugs Awareness and Education Policy

Status:	Non-statutory
Policy reviewed by:	LMT
Policy ratified by:	Headteacher
Date of policy:	March 2021
Date of next review:	March 2024
Links to other policies:	SMSC Policy; PSHE Policy
Signed:	

Drugs Education and Awareness Policy

The purpose of this policy

This policy will outline the school's policy with regard to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. In addition, this policy will cover the following:

- The school's values and ethos on drugs
- The content and delivery of the school's drugs education programme
- The school's rules around drugs
- Drug incident management within the school and health and safety issues.
- Management of Medicines within the school

The school's stance toward drugs, health, and the needs of pupils

Drug use and misuse have become increasingly common in our society. The school recognises the need to prepare and equip young people with SEND for life in a society where drug use may occur. The school also needs to be ready and able to deal with the broad range of drug-related situations and incidents which may occur in the lives of our pupils and others involved in the life of the school. The school believes that the possession, use, or supply of illegal or unauthorised drugs is unacceptable. If an incident involving drugs should occur the first concern is always for the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils. Therefore, administering first aid and summoning help in the case of medical emergencies will always take priority before dealing with any issues.

To whom the policy applies

This policy applies to staff, pupils, parent and carers, governors and partner agencies working within the school.

The school area includes the playgrounds, buildings and car park.

The school recognises its responsibility to deal with any incident that occurs off school premises but involves the groups associated with Red Gates that are identified above. This includes whilst these groups or individuals are on school business, including school visits.

Aim of Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Education

The aim of Drug education is to provide pupils with opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. See 'Drugs – Guidance for schools' (DfE 2012).

Objectives of Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Education

To increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of;

- What substances children are allowed to eat, drink or use and those that are only permitted for adults. (e.g. tobacco or alcohol)
- What medicines look like and how the misuse of medicines may be harmful.
- The appropriate use of substances that are intended for external use only, e.g. sun cream or cosmetics and to recognise that these substances may be harmful if eaten.
- Which substances are healthy or “good for you” and which are not.

To develop pupils’ social and emotional skills so they can make informed choices and keep themselves safe and healthy including:

- Assessing, avoiding and managing risk.
- Communicating effectively.
- Resisting pressures.
- To seek help and advice from a responsible adult.
- Devising problem solving and coping strategies.
- Developing self-awareness and self-esteem.

(Refer to SMSC Policy for further information on how the school promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils).

Organisation, planning and delivery

The Head Teacher, has overall responsibility for the organisation, planning and delivery of Drugs Education and awareness training at Red Gates.

However this has to be done in meaningful ways, appropriate for pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD), as part of our daily practice.

Pupils learn about:

- Making choices and decisions to develop personal autonomy
- Awareness of self and others, to communicate needs feelings and opinions
- Developing self-control and responsibility in relation to behaviour and feelings
- Taking responsibility for self and others
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle

From EYFS to KS2 there is a cross-curricular approach where PSHE (and the elements which relate to Drugs Education) permeates all areas of school life and develops skills in meaningful relevant situations.

The teaching and learning of PSHE at Red Gates is embedded in everything we do. It is differentiated, personalised and developmentally appropriate. Pupils’ individual targets and assessments form part of their EHC plans and Personalised plans, as well as additional observations being recorded on SOLAR (refer to PSHE Policy).

Management of Medicines

Also refer to ‘Model policy in relation to the education of pupils with medical needs’

This is under review and a separate policy will be produced in line with managing pupils with medical conditions within schools.

Management of illegal drugs at school

Drug related incidents in school

Each incident will be considered on its own merits and the following priorities will be considered:

1. The immediate health and safety of all members of the school community
2. Supportive responses to any individuals or groups within the school who need them, as highlighted by the incident.
3. Review drugs policy if current protocols were found to be inadequate.

If in doubt about how to respond to a drug related incident the Croydon Schools Drugs Advisor should be contacted for advice.

Intoxicated Pupils

In the unlikely event of a pupil being intoxicated by drugs, alcohol or volatile substances on the school premises the welfare of the pupil is of principle concern. This means that administering first aid and summoning the emergency services will be the first priority should there be need to do so. In cases of unconsciousness an ambulance will always be called and the pupil moved into the recovery position. Parents will also be notified immediately.

Intoxication or possession of drugs in school is seen as indicative of possible serious issues requiring specialist intervention or child protection proceedings, and the Head will seek advice from the appropriate agency. The pupil's welfare will always be the overriding priority.

Intoxicated Parents/Carers

When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere.

On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. In such instances, the Head or Deputy Head will discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made.

The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent's/carer's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of a parent/carer under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, the Head or Deputy Head will report the matter to social services for Children with Disabilities Team."

Intoxicated Staff/Contractors

Staff policies regarding drugs and intoxicating substances are referred to in each employee's contract of employment and should be referred to for guidance.

Contractors will be made aware that no employee or worker who appears to be under the influence of any intoxicating drugs or substances will be allowed on site. They should also be aware that smoking is not permitted on any part of the school premises.

Discovery of drugs or paraphernalia including needles

For pills, syringes/needles which constitute a hazard to health and safety when found on school grounds: the item must not be touched or moved; all children should be removed completely from the vicinity and the syringe/needle should be cordoned off. A member of staff should guard the item to prevent anybody coming into contact with it. Staff should not under any circumstances attempt to dispose of the item themselves. It will then be arranged for the item to be removed and disposed of correctly e.g. place a needle into a "sharps" container. If such drug paraphernalia is repeatedly found on school grounds the police should be informed so that they may attempt to discourage drugs-users from trespassing on school grounds when the school is closed.

Responding to media enquiries

Media enquiries regarding drug incidents should only be dealt with by the Head Teacher after consultation with the board of Governors. No member of staff should respond to any media enquiry unless authorised to do so by the Head Teacher. When an incident has taken place, advice may be sought from the School Drug Adviser, Jimmy Burke Tel: 020 8726 7435, and the Croydon LEA Press Officer, Jan Leslie Tel: 0208 760 5644.

Involvement of parents and carers

In the unlikely event of a pupil being intoxicated by drugs, alcohol or volatile substances on the school premises, parents will be notified immediately. Refer to accident reporting procedure.

Links with the police

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the school may wish to inform Croydon Trading Standards (Tel: 020 8407 1310) or Croydon Police Schools and Youth Unit (Tel: 020 8649 0271) about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol, or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.

Definitions and terminology

DRUG: This document uses the term to refer to any psychotropic substance that has potential to affect how a person thinks, feels, or behaves. This includes all legal drugs such as tobacco and alcohol, all illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over-the-counter prescription medicines.

ILLEGAL DRUGS:

- Class A: crack, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, amphetamines if prepared for injection, magic mushrooms.
- Class B: amphetamines, cannabis,
- Class C: GHB, Steroids, Valium, Temazepam, Diazepam.

AUTHORISED DRUGS: Principally medicines and any other drugs sanctioned for legitimate use (such as alcohol stored securely for a raffle, safe storage and use of hazardous chemicals). In all other circumstances drugs are unauthorised whether legal or not.

DRUG USE: The consumption of any drug. All drug use, including use of medicines, has the potential to cause harm.

DRUG MISUSE: Drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.

DRUG ABUSE: Drug taking which harms health or functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.'