

Appleton Wiske Community Primary School

Drugs Policy

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we perceive things and the way the body works. This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription

Our School statement

The presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is prohibited. We want our school to be a safe place for us all and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Responsibilities

The Head Teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively
- manage any drug-related incidents
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training so that they can teach effectively about drugs and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- liaise with external agencies, as required, regarding the school drugs education programme
- monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy

The Governing Body will:

- establish general guidelines on drugs education
- support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines
- inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy
- liaise with LA/health organisations so the school's policy is in line with the best advice available
- support the Head Teacher in any case conferences or in appeals against exclusions

Drugs Education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding
- provide accurate information and clear up misunderstandings
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science, SEAL, RE and PE.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2, pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking alcohol. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations before they meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together, and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with SEND may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time and we follow the DfES and LA guidelines. The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or by the LA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs at school

Pupils may only bring prescribed medication into school if the appropriate consent form has been signed to authorise members of staff to administer such medication. This is an agreed gesture of good will by the staff. Parents may visit the school during the morning break or lunch break to bring and administer prescribed medication themselves, by prior arrangement. Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Forms will be signed by the member of staff administering the medication and a witness. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in the medical cupboard. Children's inhalers will be stored in their classroom and taken on all school trips with parental consent forms. Legal drugs are legitimately allowed in school only when authorised by the Head Teacher. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school. No alcohol is allowed on the school premises, with the exception of prizes or gifts which will be kept secure until they are removed from the school site. Alcohol will not be consumed by any member of staff on or off duty on a school trip. Any personal medication belonging to staff members must be kept secure and out of sight.

Drugs incidents

The first priority is safety and first aid. An intoxicated pupil will be considered as a medical emergency. The emergency services will be called and an unconscious person will be placed in the recovery position. Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm, thus avoiding intolerable strain on the heart and precipitating sudden death. Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely. Staff will seek advice as to the disposal of these substances; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances. Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances. Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays, etc. The Head Teacher will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally. A full record will be made of any incident. The Head Teacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs policy
- answer any questions that parents may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that parents can support the key messages being given to children at school

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident. Staff will not discharge a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent and will make an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, the Head Teacher will make a child protection referral.

Monitoring and review

The Governing Body will monitor the drugs policy. The Governing Body takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded.

Revised: July 2025

Review date: July 2028

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Name	Position	Signature	Date
Neil Clark	Head Teacher		
Karen Hainsworth	Class Teacher		
Megan O'Neill	Class Teacher		
Liz Atkinson	Class Teacher		
Bethany Rowling	Class Teacher		
Paula Gudger	HLTA		
Nicki Guyll	HLTA		
Kirsty Burkitt	GTA		
Tracey Laws	GTA		
Sophie Taylor	GTA		
Daniel Hills	Club Manager		
Julie Noble	Club Assistant		
Jane Quy	Chair of Governors		