



Over St. John's C.E. Primary School

'Let you light shine before others.' Matthew 5:16

Drugs Policy

Introduction

Our school policy follows the guidance produced by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2012 *Drugs: Guidance for Schools*. It also accords with guidance from the LA and guidance from Cheshire Police.

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

- 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.

We are well aware of pressures on young people growing up in our modern society and we want to ensure we equip our children with the knowledge and skills to deal with all drug-related issues they encounter so that they are able to make the right choices to live a healthy life.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a legal *and* moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Over St John's C.E. Primary School Position Statement

At Over St John's C.E. Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, caring, and respectful environment where every child can thrive. Our core expectations—**Ready, Respectful, Safe**—guide all aspects of school life and underpin our approach to learning and wellbeing.

We believe that the presence of illegal drugs in our school is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We understand the serious risks associated with illegal drug use and are determined to keep our children safe and free from harm. Any incident involving illegal drugs on the school site will be treated with the utmost seriousness.

We also recognise that unauthorised substances, including tobacco, vaping and alcohol, pose a threat to health and safety. Our school aims to remain a secure and healthy place for all pupils and staff. When prescription medication is required for a child's wellbeing, it will be stored securely and administered only by an authorised adult.

By upholding these principles, we ensure that our school remains a safe, respectful, and supportive environment where children are ready to learn and live life in all its fullness.

Drugs Education

At Over St John's C.E. Primary School, we regard drugs education as a whole-school responsibility and an essential part of promoting healthy lifestyles. Opportunities to teach about safe and informed choices occur naturally across the curriculum, particularly in Science, PSHE and Citizenship, RE, and PE. Our approach reflects our expectations of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe, ensuring pupils are prepared to make positive decisions and understand the impact of their choices.

Teaching begins in Key Stage 1, where pupils learn about visiting the doctor, using the chemist, and the safe handling of medicines through the 1Decision Scheme of Work. In Key Stage 2, pupils explore the risks associated with alcohol, smoking (including vaping), and volatile substances, understanding why these can be harmful and how to manage challenging situations responsibly. We also teach pupils about the influence of peer pressure and equip them with strategies to make confident, respectful choices that keep themselves and others safe. By Year 6, we acknowledge that some pupils may have encountered drugs, so we focus on preparing them to stay safe, resist pressure, and act responsibly before they face real-life situations.

Our teaching is active and engaging, using discussion, dilemmas, drama, role-play, and decision-making activities to develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills together. We encourage pupils to listen to others, share their views, and explore why drugs present challenges for individuals and society. Lessons are inclusive and adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including those who may be more vulnerable or have experience of drugs within their family context.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, regardless of their attainment levels or individual needs. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities hold varying attitudes towards drug use, and that some children may live with parents or carers who misuse substances. Our approach is rooted in our school expectations of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe—helping pupils to be Ready with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices, Respectful of themselves and others when faced with difficult situations, and Safe by understanding risks and knowing how to seek help and support when needed.

Drugs education is delivered during PSHE lessons and may be supported by professionals such as the school nurse or local PCSO. We follow DfE and Local Authority guidance, using high-quality

resources from 1Decision and other recommended sources. Lessons form part of a wider programme designed to promote healthy lifestyles and safeguard pupils' wellbeing.

By embedding our values of being Ready to learn, Respectful to others, and Safe in all choices, we aim to empower pupils to make informed decisions, protect themselves from harm, and live life in all its fullness.

Drugs at School

Pupils may not bring medication into school. Parents and carers may arrange for medication to be given to their child at school in line with our Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in the medical cabinet or staff kitchen refrigerator, as appropriate. Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils.

Alcohol and tobacco/vapes are legitimately in school only when authorised by the headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their vapes, tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site.

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol, we must be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for a Temporary Event Notice.

Drugs Incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, such as calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; 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 or carers; 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 an intimate search, but may can conduct a personal search of a pupil's **outer clothing and pockets**, bags, coats and so on.

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.

Responsibilities

The Head Teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents and carers 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 regarding the school drugs education programme;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Governing Board will:

- establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines;
- inform parents and carers about the drugs education policy;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that 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.

The Role of Parents and Carers

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

- inform parents and carers about the school drugs policy;
- answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents and carers 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 or carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest 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, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

Monitoring and Review

The headteacher will monitor the drugs policy on an bi-annual basis.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Signed: *H Williamson*

Signed: *E Snowden*

Head Teacher

Date: **December 2025**

Review Date: December 2027