

Winnington Park Primary School and Nursery

Drugs Education Policy



Updated: Autumn 2026

Review date: Autumn 2027

(To be read in conjunction with Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, PSHE and SMSC Policies)

Our School Vision:

Our vision is of a community whose members: children, parents, teachers and staff work collaboratively towards achieving an exciting and inclusive school, with high expectations and standards for all, within a happy, caring and secure environment.

Our Curriculum Vision

At Winnington Park Primary School and Nursery we aim to offer a creative and inclusive Curriculum which inspires, engages and challenges and in which children are partners in their own learning.

Intent

We ensure that children are given opportunities to widen their knowledge and understanding of the world and learn and apply skills which will make them successful learners for life as well as enhancing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Children will become confident, independent and resilient learners who are willing to take risks. They will have high aspirations and be proud of their achievements. We aim to give everyone the opportunity to fulfil their highest potential, both academically and in respect of their wider interests and talents.

Our curriculum has clear end points and our lessons are sequenced so children's learning builds towards these. The children's new knowledge and skills builds on what they have been taught before and is designed for the children, families and community of Winnington Park.

Implementation

Our children learn through a knowledge-based curriculum which develops children's skills. We endeavour to engage our children and completely immerse them in their learning. Topics are progressive whilst being inclusive and challenging. They provide children with the knowledge and skills needed for the next stage in their learning and later life.

We celebrate and value all subjects and provide opportunities to apply key skills in all areas of learning. We have high expectations of achievement, progress, behaviour and presentation. Our children enjoy developing their learning through enhanced projects such as writing and reading weeks, art workshops, trips and residential.

Impact

The impact of our curriculum ensures children are prepared for the next stage of learning and later life. Children who attend Winnington Park achieve well and are equipped with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

1. Aims and Objectives of this policy

At Winnington Park Primary School and Nursery, we strive to create a learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.

In accordance with these values, this policy aims to set out the school's approach to teaching and learning about drugs and School's management of situations involving drugs. Drug and Alcohol Education Guidance have informed the policy for Schools (2003). This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's: SMSC Policy, Science policy, PSHE Policy, Safeguarding policy, Anti-bullying policy, Outside Visits policy and Medicines policy.

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. (See: appendix 1)

Our school operates a smoke free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously. We are aware of the increasing problem of drug misuse throughout the country and within our community. Our school will play a full part in contributing to efforts across our community to reduce drug misuse. To this end, we are committed to working with our parents. We will ensure parents are informed about their children's drug education, the school rules in relation to drugs and have the opportunity to be consulted about the school's policy and teaching programme.

2. Drug Education Curriculum

Drug education within the school is delivered as part of the SMSC and PSHE curriculum. We use I decision resources to support this teaching. Drug education also forms part of the statutory Science Curriculum.

The aims of our drug and alcohol education is for all pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

The I decision knowledge and skills used to teach Drug and Alcohol education are:

- ☐ Understand potential outcomes of taking risks.
- ☐ What do we need to keep safe from? How do we keep safe? Who keeps us safe?
- ☐ What does a healthy person look like? What is a healthy lifestyle choice? Do you make healthy lifestyle choices? Mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.

- Know, understand and be able to practice simple safety rules about medicine. Know who we can accept medicine from.
- Understand that cigarettes contain nicotine, which is a drug, and that there are risks (physical, social and legal) related to smoking. Know and understand how smoking can affect your future health and wellbeing. How to manage pressures of smoking. The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.
- Be able to predict and assess the level of risk in different fun situations. The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.
- How can we be responsible at home, at school, in the community? How can children and young people be irresponsible? Understand the importance of being responsible in a range of situations. Be able to discuss a range of situations when being on time is important. Learn skills of how to speak out when someone is being unkind to us or others Be able to describe caring and considerate behaviour Understand why it is important to be considerate and stand up to people who are not behaving in an appropriate, responsible way.

The organisation of the drug education curriculum

The drug education curriculum will be delivered by class teachers using the I decision resources which we also use to support PSHE, SMSC development and Safeguarding. Class teachers will have the support of the Senior Leadership Team who will also monitor delivery, assessment and reporting to parents. Class teachers will take advantage of the opportunities for making cross curricular links particularly within and between the Science, PSHE and SMSC curriculum.

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used in SMSC and PSHE together with carefully selected teaching materials. There is a place for didactic teaching, together with active learning approaches, such as role-play, small group work and problem solving, which more effectively engage pupils in the learning process. Ground rules are used to establish a safe, secure and supportive learning environment, which emphasises the promotion of relevant personal skills. Pupils are shown respect for personal privacy and time is taken to explain the implications of personal disclosures. The teaching and learning approaches also include a variety of methods and strategies that cater for the range of attainment levels of our pupils and their diverse needs (See: Equality Policy and Special Needs Policy).

We welcome the involvement of visitors from external agencies to complement the core delivery by teaching staff. All visitors are supported in the classroom by a teacher and are informed about the school's drug education policy and the National Curriculum for SMSC, PSHE and Science.

3. Confidentiality and child protection

Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will be honored unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfill their professional responsibilities in relation to: child protection, cooperation with a police investigation or referral to an external service. Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality.

It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. In such circumstances Mrs Jurgis is the nominated child protection officer, and concerns should be directed towards this person. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a pupil, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home. Where there is disclosure of illegal substance use by a pupil, parents will be informed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

4. Drug related situations

A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs.

We do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on premises will be disposed of appropriately.

The designated senior member of staff for drug related situations is the head teacher.

The following will guide staff's response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse.

- Initial response and investigation;
- Inform senior colleague – who will guide investigation, ensure written record is made and decide about any disposal;
- Consider responses, including whether to contact police – including possible disposal and further searching; □ Contact parents / carers;
- Consider contacting chair of governors, LEA and other support services;
- Consider sanctions / support needs of pupil(s) involved; □ Draw up and implement an action plan.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal substances found on pupils will be confiscated. If necessary a pupil will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer with supervision from a parent, or other appropriate adult.

Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a pupil is discovered with tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal drugs, then a fixed period exclusion will be a consideration. More serious disciplinary consequences will be considered, together with support needs and child protection, dependent upon individual circumstances.

The school has the powers, with police assistance if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of pupils during the journey to and from school is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a pupil due to parent /carer intoxication then discussion will be held with the adult and consideration given to moving the pupil to a safer environment and / or alternative means of travel home.

5. Health and Safety and medicines

Please see Health and Safety Policy for additional information.

The safety of the individual and of all others on the school site are the most important concern if a pupil, visitor or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of any drug or substance which adversely affects their judgement. Responding consistently within our stated Health and Safety procedures, including, where necessary, the administration of first aid, is the priority.

Should any drug related paraphernalia be discovered on the school site, most will be handled within existing health & safety procedures using safety equipment such as disposable gloves, and will be bagged up and disposed of in the rubbish. A written record will be kept of suspicious paraphernalia. Pupils will be advised to not touch suspect items, such as discarded injecting equipment, but report the matter to a member of staff. The member of staff will ensure safety is maintained, until appropriate disposal of the item(s) is undertaken.

Solvents or hazardous chemicals legitimately used carefully by school staff or pupils and are stored securely in the appropriate area and managed in a way to prevent inappropriate access or use.

The approach to access and administration of medicines is set out in the school's Medicines Policy. The principles underlying this are to:

- Recognise individual medical needs and promote inclusion to provide an education for all pupils, supporting their medical needs.
- Undertake to contact parents/carers if a pupil is ill during the school day.
- All pupils with medical needs will have an Individual HealthCare Plan.

The school provides for the safe and secure storage of medicines:

- all adults are responsible for the secure storage of their own medication
- All staff members are responsible for the secure storage of pupils' (prescribed) medication, both at school and on school visits

Staff only administer medicines if written parental consent has been provided and agreed to by the school and the member of staff. This may involve additional training for members of staff involved in offering assistance, which may also include assistance with surgical appliances (e.g. artificial limbs) and medical aids (e.g. hearing aids).

Emergency aid

Summoning medical help such as the qualified first aider, or an ambulance is crucial, but in the interim period emergency aid should be applied as follows:

- Move the child or young person as little as possible
- Put into the recovery position
- Ensure the mouth is open and unobstructed
- Keep them warm and quiet
- Monitor breathing, start artificial respiration if breathing stops or become shallow □ Apply chest compression if there is no heart beat

If staff have any suspicions that a pupil is intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance, care should be taken to not chase or overexcite the pupil. Strenuous activity for volatile substance misusers can increase the risk of sudden death. The pupil should be kept calm until the effects have worn off.

6. Educational visit/social events

The school's drug education policy applies during school visits and school social events.

During educational visits:

- Staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits, which will include the issue of consumption of alcohol and smoking by staff
- Adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place
- A nominated first aider will be responsible for the safe storage of any pupils' medicines and supervision their administration
- Pupils will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

School social events:

- At all social events organised by the school the responsibility for the conduct of the pupils present remains with the parent/carer.
- At such events the school 'No Smoking Policy' will be enforced.
- This school will not condone the use of any illegal substance by any individual during social activities connected with the school.
- Adults at designated school functions, subject to compliance with licensing law and within reasonable limits, may consume alcohol.

7. Staff matters including training

All staff are expected to work within the agreed policy and their own professional and employment terms and conditions.

Training will be available to all staff on: basic awareness of drugs (including alcohol), emergency procedures, procedures in the event of an incident, confidentiality and disclosure, and awareness of the drug education teaching programme within SMSC, PSHE and Science and its consistency with the school's values. In addition, the specific professional development needs of teachers delivering aspects of drug education within SMSC, PSHE and Science will be incorporated into individual and team professional development plans.

8. Implementation, monitoring and review

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head and Governors. They will act as link Governor for drug education as part of Safeguarding. Verbal feedback will include evaluative feedback from pupils, as well as teaching and support staff.

Opportunities will be made to inform parents about their children's drug education and about wider support and concerns about drugs, both through written information and parent's events.

Support Agencies

National

- **Talk To Frank** - 0800 776600 www.talktofrank.com
- **Drinkline** – 0800 9178282 www.alcoholconcern.org.uk,
- **ADFAM** – 020 7 928 8898

Waterbridge House, 32-36 Loman Street, London. SE1 0EH.

The national organisation for the families and friends of drug users

www.adfam.org.uk

- **Drugscope – 020 7928 1211**

Waterbridge House, 32 - 36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.

DrugScope is a UK charity that conducts research in the drugs field and provides drugs information to professionals and the public.

www.drugscope.org.uk

- **Release – 0207 729 5255**

388 Old Street, London, EC1V 9LT

Also, Drugs in Schools Helpline by RELEASE - 0345 366666 www.release.org.uk

- **RE-SOLV – 0808 800 2345**

30a High Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8AW

The Society for the Prevention of Solvent Abuse

www.re-solv.org/

- **Childline – 0800 1111.**

Studd Street, London. N1 0QW

www.childline.org.uk

Appendix I

Recording form for a drug-related situation.

Name of pupil:	Report form completed by:
Form/Class:	Senior staff involved:
Date of Incident:	Time of incident: am / pm

(continue on blank sheet if necessary)

Sample found? Yes / No

Destroyed at time: am / pm

Witness name:

Securely retained (prior to police collection):

Yes / No

Drug involved (if known):

Alcohol ☐. Amphetamines ☐. Cannabis ☐.

Cocaine ☐.

Ecstasy ☐. Heroin ☐. LSD ☐. Medicines ☐.

Solvents ☐.

Other ☐ (please specify):

First aid given?

Yes / No

If Yes,

Given by:

If Yes, called by:

Ambulance Called? Yes / No.

at time: am / pm

If Yes, called by:

Police Contacted? Yes / No.

at time: am / pm

Parent/carers informed by:

at :

am / pm.

Other action taken: (e.g. screening for referral to U.19 Substance Misuse Service; other agency involved; pupils/staff informed; sanction imposed; police consulted about drug, pastoral support plan, referral to school nurse or school counsellor)

School action:

Referral action:

(continue on blank sheet if necessary)

APPENDIX 2 – Definition of a drug and information about drugs of misuse.

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. All medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.

Therefore, drugs include legally controlled substances such as: Caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, solvents, amyl nitrate (poppers), as well as substances used for medical purposes, whether sold over the counter or prescribed, such as: antihistamines, antibiotics, tranquillisers and illegal substances such as: cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine, LSD

Possession of some prescription-only medicines, such as Temazepam and Ritalin, is illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act if no prescription is held.

These lists are not definitive and there may be some overlap of the categories.

Substance	Effects	Risks	Legal Position
Tobacco	Relaxation, headache, bad breath, reduced appetite	Bad cough, cancer, heart attack, breathless	Illegal to sell to anyone under 16
Alcohol	Relaxation, lose inhibitions, loss of control, vomiting, violence, drowsiness	Liver damage, impairs decision making and judgement	Illegal to sell to anyone under 18 (as a general rule).
Cannabis / marijuana	Lack of co-ordination, related heart rate increase, happy loss of inhibitions, can cause panic	Long term may cause lung disease and psychotic illness. Loss of memory, impaired judgement	Class C. Illegal to grow or supply
Solvents / gas	Facial rash, stomach cramps, lack of coordination, aggressive behaviour, weird visions, headaches, light headed, relaxing	Death from asphyxiation or heart seizure. Psychological dependence. Choking on vomit. Possible damage to lungs, kidneys, liver, heart and central nervous system	Illegal to sell to under 18s knowing it will be abused

Amphetamines	Initially energetic and confident, but anxiety and restlessness can follow	High doses can produce delirium, panic, paranoia or depression, heart failure, damaged blood vessels	Class B. Illegal to possess or supply (unless prescribed)
MDMA / Ecstasy	Increased energy and colour perception, feelings of well-being, increased thirst, head and muscle ache	Can lead to anxiety, panic, insomnia, hypothermia and dehydration. Some evidence of liver damage	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply
LSD	Hallucinogenic effects, including intensified colours and sounds, or even out of body experiences. Effects are dependent on the strength of the dose.	Difficult to identify strength of dose. Experiences can be emotionally disturbing (bad trip) leading to anxiety. Flashbacks can occur.	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.
Hallucinogenic mushrooms / magic mushrooms	Similar to LSD experience	Main risk is picking and eating a poisonous mushroom by mistake	Class A if processed cooked, dried or made into tea
Amyl Nitrate	Blood vessels dilate causing a rushing sensation to head, lose balance, increased energy. May enhance sexual pleasure. Effects are short lived.	Vomiting, shock, unconsciousness, heart attack, dizziness, headache, palpitations	Currently no legal restrictions on use or supply
Anabolic Steroids	Increase strength, speed, aggression and competitiveness. Enables more intensive training for longer.	Restriction on growth, spinal problems, menstrual abnormalities, voice changes, increase in hair growth	Possession for personal use not illegal. Supply is illegal, with Class C penalties.

Heroin	Euphoria, reduced anxiety and pain levels. Slow heart rate and breathing. Can cause constipation. Appetite loss.	Highly addictive. Difficult to identify strength of dose and what it is mixed with. Danger of overdose. Injecting causes abscess and other infections including septicaemia and HIV	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.
Cocaine/ Crack	Feelings of exhilaration, strength and well being. Decreased hunger, indifference to pain and fatigue. Effects relatively short term.	Comedown can bring on depression, anxiety and fatigue. Excessive doses may cause death from respiratory or heart failure. Long term use may lead to paranoid psychosis.	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.

