

## Drug and Alcohol Education Policy

### 1.0 Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- 1.1 Equip pupils with the knowledge to understand the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding) about the dangers of drug, alcohol and substance misuse and to have the ability to make their own informed decisions about their lifestyle choices, health and wellbeing and have the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe in an ever-developing world.
- 1.2 Support and build pupil's self-esteem, confidence and decision making skills, to enable them to deal with peer pressure and to take responsibility for their own actions.
- 1.3 Enable pupils to discuss openly questions related to drug taking and alcohol, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- 1.4 Recognise that there are laws surrounding the use of legal drugs and that some drugs are illegal to own, use and give to others.
- 1.5 Inform pupils about the organisations that can support people concerning alcohol, tobacco and nicotine or other drug use; people they can talk to if they have concerns.
- 1.6 Remind pupils about how to make a disclosure if they have concerns
- 1.7 To ensure that protective factors that can build pupils' resilience and help to prevent substance use are developed through a number of topics within PSHE education, such as:
  - Healthy lifestyles and health-related decisions
  - Managing risks and personal safety
  - Mental health and emotional wellbeing
  - Forming and maintaining positive relationships

### 2.0 Rationale

- 2.1 We regard drug education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum.
- 2.2 Drug education also sits within the broader PSHE and SMSC curriculum and also shares objectives with the Science Curriculum and by the time pupils leave School they should know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking. The PSHE Association state: 'We recommend that drug and alcohol education continues to be taught within a planned, spiral curriculum in PSHE education lessons to ensure teaching is enhanced by, and enhances, the wider PSHE education curriculum and to facilitate progression of learning that is age and developmentally appropriate.'
- 2.3 Drug education also plays a part in our safeguarding responsibilities.
- 2.4 In this policy the word 'drug' is understood to include any substance which has a narcotic or stimulant effect, including tobacco, tobacco-derived products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, illegal drugs and solvents.

### **3.0 Safeguarding**

We acknowledge that pupils will have a range of experience and understanding of legal and illegal drugs, and some may have families that have been affected by substance use. Teachers will always prepare for and teach all lessons on the basis that there will be at least one member of the class who may be personally affected by the lesson content.

#### **3.1 The following safeguards should be put in place:**

- Alerting relevant pastoral and safeguarding staff about the topic being covered and encouraging them to discuss the lesson content with any pupils who are accessing support for related issues
- Informing parents of content to enable them to further support pupils with questions or in further discussions, in case pupils come home with questions or wish to discuss these issues further.
- Giving the pupil(s) a chance to withdraw from the lesson if appropriate (without being asked to justify their absence to their peers) or with additional adult support. Consideration must be given as to how to follow up the missed lesson with the pupil(s), as this learning may be especially relevant to them.
- Signposting appropriate sources of support before, during and after the lesson.

### **4.0 Organisation**

- 4.1 Lessons will be planned with sensitivity and to take into account the age, maturity and experience. The needs of pupils with SEND will be addressed by the provision of additional support, different activities or resources where appropriate.
- 4.2 Schools will make every effort to respect pupil's religious beliefs and cultural traditions. Parents are always welcome to discuss these issues with the Academy Head.
- 4.3 The drug and alcohol element of the PSHE curriculum are included on page 19 in the curriculum document:

#### Consortium Trust - Pupils & Their Learning

The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the **PSHE** Association where lessons plans and guidance for KS1-4, including pupils with SEND are available:

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/drugeducation>

or by reputable drugs education charities, such as 'Mentor'. Any external providers or visitors supporting this area of work, such as school nurse, representative from the police or other health professional will be under the direct supervision of the class teacher and Academy Head and consultation regarding content and approach will have taken place prior to the visit.

Further guidance on working with external visitors is available from the PSHE Association:

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/guidance/ks1-5/selecting-and-working-with-visitors-and-speakers>

- 4.4 A variety of teaching strategies, including group and whole class activities, circle time, brainstorming, stories, visitors, external agency involvement and discussion/debate, P4C and drama may be used to ensure a broad and balanced approach to the teaching of knowledge and skills.
- 4.5 Parents and carers will be supported to work with their children, possibly through workshops, policy and information sharing.

## **5.0 The role of the Academy Head**

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of the Academy Head to ensure that staff and parents are informed about the drug education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Academy Head's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 5.2 The Academy Head will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drug education programme where appropriate and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- 5.3 The Academy Head will monitor the policy and update the Locality Committee, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **6.0 The role of Locality Committee**

- 6.1 The **Locality Committee** will support the Academy Head in monitoring these guidelines.

## **7.0 The role of parents and carers**

- 7.1 The Trust is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:
  - inform parents about the school drug education policy and practice;
  - invite parents to view the materials used to teach drug education in our school;
  - answer any questions parents may have about the drug education their child receives in school;
  - take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers about this policy or the arrangements for drug education in the school;

## **8.0 Monitoring and Review**

- 8.1 The provision of drug education will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the SLT and Academy Head and by class teachers. This includes checking that objectives have been met, adequate resources are being used and that the teaching and learning are appropriate.

## Document Control

### Changes History

| Version | Date       | Amended By    | Details of Change                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2       | 31/07/2017 | Tamsin Little | Outline curriculum information available to parents in half-termly overview documents noted in 2.2                                                                      |
| 3       | 08/05/2018 | Tamsin Little | Added 1.2 statement about the use of the word 'drug'<br>Corrected throughout the use of the word drugs to drug.<br>Illegal has been changed to illicit where indicated. |
| 4       | 18/10/2018 | Robin Chew    | Added e-cigarettes                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5       | 13/07/2020 | Sam Cutler    | Wording clarified and how drugs education sits within wider curriculum                                                                                                  |
| 6       | 17/05/2022 | Sam Davidson  | Links added to curriculum documents and change of policy name to include alcohol                                                                                        |
| 7       | 03/05/2023 | Sam Davidson  | Addition of safeguarding sections, updating and adding links to curriculum and guidance re external visitors                                                            |
| 8       | 10/05/2024 | Debbie Thomas | Amended out of date link to curriculum document                                                                                                                         |
| 9       | 23/03/2026 | Debbie Thomas | Amended out of date link to curriculum document and update the role of the locality committee                                                                           |

### Approval

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Director of Primar Education or as required by changes in legislation.

At every review, this policy will be approved by the Executive Committee.

The policy was last approved by the Executive Committee on 11/05/2026.

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