Drugs Education Policy

Date Approved	Committee responsible for review of policy	Next Review Date	Policy on Website	Statutory Policy
September 2026	FGB	September 2029	Yes	No

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Humphrey

Rationale for Drugs Education Policy
The School has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug abuse and misuse. The School takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that Health Education is a vital part of the personal and social education of every pupil. All staff have a duty of care to follow and co-operate with the requirements of this policy.

This policy should be disseminated to:

- Parents
- Governors
- Staff

This will be done through the school website, staff meetings and newsletters

Location and dissemination:
A copy of the policy can be found on the school website.

Context:
Anstey Junior School is a two form entry Junior School. It is situated in Alton and serves a wide catchment area. Anstey Junior School serves pupils of 7 – 11 years.

Purposes of the policy:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.

Guidelines
Drugs Education is fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum, mainly through Personal, Social, & Health Education, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Community police, LEA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to drug education and to deal with incidents, substance use and misuse. Visitors who come to the school will be made aware of this policy.

This policy uses the definition that a drug is:
'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'.
(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
The term 'Drugs' includes

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- Psychoactive substances (often known as legal highs) covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act (April 2016)

This policy will be effective in school. For the purpose of this policy 'in school' is taken to mean on school premises, including buildings and grounds and including breakfast and after school club. The headteacher's jurisdiction can extend beyond the school gates when a pupil still has a connection with the school, for example when wearing school uniform or is currently on the school roll. The School policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips, including those abroad. This policy covers the pupils' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day and the letting of the school's facilities, including the school grounds

Anstey Junior School is committed to the health and safety of all who use the school and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We are a 'no-smoking' school (see Health & Safety Policy)

If a teacher is concerned about a particular pupil and feels that they may need support, they must discuss any approach with the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) of Deputy DSLs. If a substance is discovered which is suspected of being harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation it will be removed to the Headteacher's office in the presence of another member of Staff. If the substance is known to be illegal the police will be informed. If there is any doubt about the legality of the substance it will be treated as being illegal. In all instances parents will be kept informed unless child protection issues determine otherwise. The following will be recorded by the member of staff responsible for receiving or retrieving the substance:

• the date and time of find or retrieval
• size and appearance of substance (photograph where possible)
• the names of those concerned.

Conclusion
Drugs and substances form a part of every child and adult's world. Our role in school is to enable children to understand the benefits and dangers of drugs and other substances.

We need to ensure that administration of medicines in school are conducted within clear, effective, agreed procedures (see supporting pupils with medical needs policy).

Appendix 1
Explanations

Medicines- see supporting pupils with medical needs
Tobacco- The school is a no smoking site, including e cigarettes
Alcohol- If alcohol is authorised at school, for example at parent/carer events, the arrangements for storage or use should be agreed and adhered to. It is an offence under the Licensing Act 1964 to sell alcohol without a licence. However, no licence would be needed by the school were to offer alcohol at school events where no sale takes place.
Any alcohol found in pupil's possession should be confiscated and returned to parents. Schools may wish to emphasise that drinks such as shandy contain alcohol and should not be bought to school or included in packed lunches. The school may also want to offer guidance on 'energy drinks' as these can contain levels of caffeine inappropriate for children.
Solvents – the school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely.
Illegal Substances- The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and in dealing with drug related incidents the schools primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole. No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought onto or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes are cleared away safely and legally.

Appendix 2
Actions
Guiding principles
The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The School's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.
The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

Any drugs or drug paraphernalia found in school should be taken to the office and put in the safe.

- Searching pupils and pupils property should not be undertaken by anyone – police (Police Community Support Officer PCSO) will be called
- Responding to the needs of those involved in any incident in line with school behaviour policy
- When managing pupils or parents under the influence of substances refer to the head teacher and Senior Leadership Team and PCSO
- When contacting the police use 101 if non emergency or in the event of an emergency ring 999
- The wider pastoral needs of pupils and making pupils aware of the various internal and external support structures will be taken care of by the SENCO or DSL
- Recording incidents in the social profile folder, child protection software for schools (CPOMS) and take directly to the headteacher or DSL

Confidentiality:
At Anstey Junior School we feel that all sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to pupil's and families rights and needs.

Involvement of parents/carers:
Parents will be informed by the headteacher of any incident involving drug misuse
In most cases at **Anstey Junior School** we would fully expect to involve parents at the earliest opportunity with regard to the unauthorised use of drugs and this will be made clear to pupils. A request for confidentiality is not possible in relation to

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency

Appendix 3
Drugs Education
We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education programme and our Citizenship programme.
Drug education in our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.
At KS2 children should be introduced the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

School Should ensure that	Yes	No
• The overall aims of the schools drug, alcohol and tobacco education programme is pupil centred • The messages are consistent with the over all aims of the programme • The education meets the skills, knowledge and attitudes of pupils • Meets the needs of the pupils		
• visitors are competent educators and facilitators and do not input out of their remit and expertise		
The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to: • explore attitudes and values around drug misuse. • practise decision making skills. • become aware of peer pressure. • develop assertiveness skills. • consider the consequences of risk taking. • learn how to access sources of help and information. • emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. • evaluate media messages on drug use.		

Methodology and Resources for drugs education:

- Role-play
- Discussions
- Drama
- Debates
- Creative writing
- Questionnaires
- Structured games
- Circle time,
- external visitor's i.e. school nurse, PCSO

Appendix 4

Drugs (legal or illegal) related incidents can generally be placed into one of three categories. In all cases the headteacher should be informed:

- Rumours of use or dealing on or off the premises
- Actual use or dealing on or off the premises, including a first aid response
- Disclosures of own or others use from a student or parent and requests for help and support

Possible Junior School Drug Scenarios

- A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age, e.g. a year 4 pretends to roll/build a joint/spliff in the playground.

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises; e.g. a year 3 pupil finds a used syringe on the playground.

- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia E.g. a year 5 pupil drops from their school bag a packet of large cigarette papers with some of the card torn off.

- A pupil is found supplying drugs on school premises, E.g. a year 6 pupil is selling cigarettes.

- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs, e.g. a drunken parent arrives to take a child home.

- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of substances is taking place in the local area, e.g. a teacher overhears a pupil saying that they knew another pupil who bought lighter fuel from the local shop.

- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs, e.g. a year 3 pupil drops a piece of cannabis on the floor and when asked what it is and where he got it he says he doesn't know what it is, but his dad was cutting it up on the kitchen table.